

ASTON VILLA and HIBS **TEAM GROUPS**

SHOOT!

25p

17th OCTOBER,
1981

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Thanks, Bill!

"WHO laid down the foundations for the modern Liverpool? It was me... Bill Shankly."

The man could have been writing his own epitaph when he uttered those words to us not three months ago.

The death of Bill Shankly MBE has shocked and saddened all in the game.

Anybody who had come into contact with the great man could not help but be impressed by him.

His total commitment and passion for his beloved Liverpool FC completely dominated the last 22 of his 67 years.

When he was appointed manager at Anfield in 1959, Liverpool were languishing in the Second Division, struggling against the giant shadow cast by neighbouring Everton.

By the time he finally called it a day in 1974 Liverpool had won the League Championship three times, the F.A. Cup twice and the UEFA Cup once.

SHOOT view!

And perhaps more importantly, he had laid the foundations for greater glories.

Kevin Keegan, Roger Hunt, Ian St. John, Ray Clemence, Phil Thompson, Ron Yeats, Ian Callaghan, Tommy Smith... all will openly testify just how much they owe to Bill Shankly.

A straight-talking Scotsman with the ability to inject humour into the most serious of situations, he will undoubtedly be remembered as one of soccer's greatest characters.

Everybody has their own favourite Bill Shankly anecdote, each one guaranteeing his name is recorded to memory for a great many years to come.

Like the Great Dixie Dean before him, Shankly's death is mourned by followers of both Liverpool and Everton. Their traditional rivalry will be forgotten on this occasion.

What is even sadder about the sudden demise of this man is that at a time when soccer has never been in greater need of personalities, the greatest of them all is lost.

We would like to add our condolences to the millions who mourn the death of a footballing legend.

Thanks, Bill, for a million memories.

MANCHESTER UNITED

CAN UNITED WIN THE FIRST DIVISION?

Not with the present squad. Despite United's resources it'll be a surprise if they win it even with more new faces and despite some recent more encouraging results.

WHAT'S GONE WRONG AT UNITED?

Lots of things. You can almost trace the beginning of the problems back to 1968 when they won the European Cup. Great players left and haven't been replaced. Other sides have replaced top-class stars, so why not United? There have been some very controversial decisions at board level, especially in the hiring and firing of managers.

THE SACKING OF DAVE SEXTON IS STILL A TALKING POINT

The way United handled this lost them a lot of friends inside the game. Apparently Sexton's assistant Tommy Cavanagh was dismissed over the phone — scant reward for his loyalty.

IS RON ATKINSON THE RIGHT MAN TO LEAD UNITED BACK TO GLORY?

It's too early to say. Certainly his pedigree is good and he has the charisma that chairman Martin Edwards was looking for in the introverted Sexton's successor.

UNITED NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO BE CHAMPIONS...



George Best in his hey day with United.



HOW MUCH PRESSURE IS HE UNDER?

You could call it mega-pressure. Atkinson knows that if United don't qualify for Europe this season he'll be labelled a failure by many. And United must win in style. Liverpool believe that winning is the only thing that matters, but at Old Trafford they demand excitement as well.

HOW ABOUT THE PRESENT TEAM?

Gary Bailey hasn't quite come on as much as most thought. Without

Martin Buchan the back four would look even more shaky. Remi Moses will add bite to the United midfield, which has lacked a ball-winner. Atkinson must hope that Ray Wilkins can realise his huge potential, although there must be a question mark over the England man just as there is over Sammy McIlroy and Lou Macari. The fans have been very patient with Garry Birtles, but despite his effort they must have expected more from the £1 million striker. Whether he can form an effective partnership with Frank Stapleton, whose class cannot be doubted, remains to be seen. Having the reliable Steve Coppell on the wing can only help them, though.

WHAT DO UNITED NEED TO DO?

As much as anything their image has been tarnished. In the days of Sir Matt Busby, Law, Charlton and Best, United stood for all that was good in the game. Things have happened in the past ten years that have changed United's standing in football. People don't look at the club in quite the same way now and that can't be reversed quickly. Atkinson needs time, which is exactly what he can't have. He's not helped himself or United's cause by his dealings in the transfer market with Moses and Bryan Robson. His valuation of Moses is surely way below what he would have asked as manager of West Brom had Dave Sexton inquired last April. And West Brom are furious with the way he's pursued Robson. Atkinson realises

One honour in 13 years

SINCE they won the European Cup in 1968 — a year after their last Championship success — their only major triumph has been in the F.A. Cup, which they won in 1977. They did, of course, win the Second Division title in 1975, but for a club of United's standing that is a somewhat hollow success.

There have been five different managers since Sir Matt Busby resigned — Wilf McGuinness, Frank O'Farrell, Tommy Docherty, Dave Sexton and now

Ron Atkinson. Sir Matt did take over on a temporary basis after McGuinness stepped down.

United's League positions since 1968 have been:

Year	League position	Division
1969.....	11th	from Division Two)
1970.....	8th	
1971.....	8th	
1972.....	8th	1976..... 3rd
1973.....	18th	1977..... 6th
1974.....	21st	1978..... 10th
(relegated)		1979..... 9th
1975.....	1st	1980..... 2nd
(promoted)		1981..... 8th



— the questions and the answers



New boss Ron Atkinson and new striker Frank Stapleton.

United need a facelift and the United line-up that finishes the season will surely be significantly different from the present one.

WHERE ARE THE NEW YOUNG UNITED STARS?

It wasn't too long ago that United had a superb scouting system and always seemed to have a new young star coming through the ranks. The Old Trafford crowd love to identify with heroes, especially home produced ones, but it's been a while since they could. Joe Jordan was their idol and it was sad he left; now the Stretford End are searching for a new king again.

It could be Frank Stapleton . . .

FOOTBALL NEEDS A SUCCESSFUL UNITED, DOESN'T IT?

Definitely. United will always attract huge home gates, but their drawing power away from Manchester isn't what it used to be. Opponents still like to beat United more than most teams, but the magic isn't there any more. The Reds' supporters must look enviously at Ipswich, where Thijssen and Muhren pull the strings in midfield; Liverpool replaced Keegan with Dalglish and the Kop was happy; Spurs gambled on Ardiles and Villa and it

paid off. United have spent heavily in the transfer market, yet they haven't had a good return for their investment.

WHERE DO UNITED GO FROM HERE?

It's an old cliché, but they must take each game as it comes. Atkinson must aim to win as many games as he can; change his side with the minimum of fuss; keep the fans happy with entertaining football; and satisfy his chairman by a respectable position in Division One. Perhaps it's just as well Manchester City aren't setting Division One alight.

'BUT WE CAN QUALIFY FOR EUROPE' says Shoot's star-writer GORDON McQUEEN

MANCHESTER UNITED 1981-82 Champions! Well, soccer is full of shocks and surprises, but I don't think we are capable of winning the title just yet.

The most important targets for United this season are to build a squad equipped to achieve success over a period of time and to ensure we finish high enough in the League to qualify for Europe.

I went with seven of the lads to see the recent Celtic v. Juventus European Cup-tie at Parkhead and realised just what United are missing.

A full house of 60,000 and some of the world's top players such as

them and keep United at the top the board have changed the manager when things weren't going right.

Perhaps some of those managers should have been given a little more time to build new teams. Perhaps the side of the late 60's was kept together too long. I don't know. It's difficult for me to comment on United's deep rooted problems when I've only been here for just over three years.

The manager at United is constantly in the spotlight. Mistakes are magnified, adding to the pressure on him.

lead United back to glory.

Now I'm older and wiser I prefer to say . . . "let's wait and see."

But so far so good. Big Ron appears to have all the right United credentials. He believes in the attacking football United fans have come to expect . . . is not afraid to make big decisions . . . will go all out to try and sign top class players where other managers have perhaps hesitated and lost out . . . and is great with the media.

Ron's a big man in every way and certainly has the charisma United need. But I've a hunch he's finding the job even more demanding than he realised.

I suppose it was inevitable the team would come under fire following our disastrous start when we slumped to the bottom of the First Division. It was a false position, as recent results have proved.

Capable

United might not win the Championship this season, but we're not far short of being a team capable of reaching the top and staying there.

Living with Manchester City also brings pressure to United and the manager. There's no way we can afford to let City overshadow us.

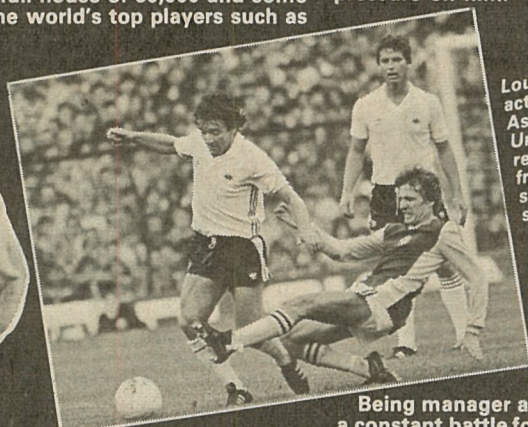
This Saturday (October 10th) the two clubs clash at Maine Road and already the match is billed as Bond v. Atkinson.

That's a shame. I'm sure John and Ron will agree that no personality should be bigger than the clubs.

Obviously these derby games are the highlights of the season for most United and City fans. For me it's just another First Division match to be won.

Trouble is, the atmosphere of the occasion doesn't generally make for good games. Players are too tense and keyed up . . . afraid to lose.

But a United win at Maine Road will prove we're on the way back.



Lou Macari in action against Aston Villa. United are now recovering from a poor start to the season.

Brady, Bettiga, Zoff and Tardelli on view.

Being involved in European competition must be our main objective.

United have won nothing since the F.A. Cup in 1977, a tragedy for one of the world's most famous and glamorous clubs.

Gone are the glory days, but to be fair, where will you find another Charlton, Law or Best today? Like United they are unique.

In my opinion the reason for the club's lack of success over the years can be summed up in one word — impatience.

Fans have demanded success every season. In an effort to please

Being manager at Old Trafford is a constant battle for survival. Once it was regarded as the best job in football. Now due to the club's trophy famine it's one of the toughest.

Look how many top names rejected the position when Dave Sexton was sacked.

I can't argue with the directors' reasons for dismissing Dave. It's not for players to tell the board how to run the club, but I did feel personally that United were on the right lines under him.

Trouble was . . . Dave's theories and ideals were taking too long to get results.

If I were a younger player I'd stick my neck out and declare new boss Ron Atkinson as the man to

Gordon McQueen

DOOG WATCH

TEENAGE Peterborough United striker Colin Clarke aims to follow the international footsteps of one-time Posh and Northern Ireland idol Derek Dougan.

After exciting First Division spells with Portsmouth, Blackburn and Aston Villa, early in his career, the legendary ace dropped to Peterborough in the lower regions of the Football League before re-entering the big time and earning stardom with Leicester and Wolves.

Now, Ulster-born Clarke, who arrived at Peterborough from Ipswich Town during the summer, hopes to emulate the "Doog" and scale the heights at club and international level.

Saunders earns £100,000



ASTON VILLA had income in excess of £2m last season but it was only £450,000 compensation received as settlement for the early retirement of former England international Brian Little which enabled them to make a profit of £246,915.

The wage bill went through £1m for the first time with manager Ron Saunders collecting in the region of £100,000, a salary of between £65,000 and £75,000, plus a £30,000 testimonial.

The breakdown of wages indicate that two received between £50,000 and £55,000, five between £45,000 and £50,000 and eleven in excess of £40,000.

This is big money by any standard and indicates the lucrative earnings of some players.

Such figures have already attracted considerable comment — particularly on the factory floor in an area where there is high unemployment.



MOSES TRANSFER LEAVES 'SOUR' TASTE

WEST BROM captain John Wile had some harsh words to say when Remi Moses (right) signed for Manchester United.

"We were all sorry to see such a good young player leaving," said Wile. "Especially as we saw him develop through the ranks."

"Remi is going to be a fine player and I wish it was with Albion. It left a sour taste that he waited until the new season before announcing he would be leaving."

"This made it extremely difficult for Ronnie Allen to replace him."

Moses is back where his football days began . . . Old Trafford.

The England Under-21 midfield

star used to stand on the Stretford End as a boy.

"I was just like any other Stretford Ender . . . cheering them on, but I signed for West Brom when I was 14 because Johnny Giles was the manager and at that time I thought he'd improve my game," he explains.

'Enjoying'

"But now I'm here at United it's great. I can't believe it. To be honest, I wasn't enjoying the last few matches at Albion . . . I suppose because of all the hassle about me leaving."

"I was sorry to go, but I'm happier with United."



Gillette to sponsor schoolboy football

GILLETTE Shaving Division, already well known for its sports sponsorship activities covering 18 years of cricket with the Gillette Cup, and the more recent Gillette London Marathon, is to sponsor schools football.

The company is undertaking the major sponsorship, worth over £20,000, of schoolboy football in co-operation with the English Schools Football Association.

Gillette will be sponsoring the ESFA's major football competition which will now be called "The ESFA/Gillette

Inter-Association Trophy."

It is effectively the "F.A. Cup" of schoolboy football and links together over 350 teams during its season which normally runs from September until May.

In addition to this Gillette will sponsor the ESFA/Gillette Festival of Football, an annual event held at Skegness.

Over 1,000 boys in the 16/18-year-old age group come from all over the country for a week to compete against each other and to play and learn about football.

● Former Stoke City and Hibs goalkeeper Mike McDonald has been released by Berwick Rangers to take up a new post as second team coach with Hearts.

Charlie's a darling

CHARLIE GEORGE may not have been everyone's favourite player, but at a time when the game needs every boost it can get it

was sad to see the former Southampton star slip quietly away from the English scene to a new career in Hong Kong.

George was a personality and if he hit the headlines for the wrong reasons at times he was still good value for money.

Now he's joined Bulova, a club backed by the giant watch manufacturers.

In recent years he's been troubled by injuries, but Saints manager Lawrie McMenemy gave Charlie a glowing tribute.

"We'll miss him," he says. "He would have liked to have joined another League club, but no one came for him."

"That he's gone to Hong Kong can only make our game poorer. Perhaps his path didn't always run smoothly, but players like him can give more pleasure in five minutes than most can in 90."

"He was labelled a trouble maker, but I never had any bother with him. Charlie wasn't even the extrovert character most think he is — indeed, he kept himself to himself. He was a good trainer and helped the younger players a lot."



LEICESTER CITY'S army of Scots continues to grow. Manager Jack Wallace has signed 17-year-old Neirn County striker Derek Thomson.



BLYTH WINS SEXTON'S VOTE

JIM BLYTH is back in the Coventry City goal after Les Sealey had apparently made the position his own.

Sky Blue fans shouldn't be too surprised that manager Dave Sexton gave the nod to Blyth — after all, he almost joined Manchester United for £440,000 when Sexton was there, but the deal fell through after a medical.

The Blyth/Sealey rivalry has lasted three years and it's pretty well even between the pair.

BYRON'S AGONY

SADDEST figure on the way home from the Wales World Cup defeat by Czechoslovakia in Prague was Byron Stevenson. He had worked hard for his Wales recall — and then seen it had crashed in ruins. Both of the Czech goals stemmed from his mistakes.

Less than two years earlier, Stevenson had been sent off against Turkey in Izmir — a violently abused victim of the incident from which Buyuk Mustapha sustained a broken jaw.

"That was the worst homecoming of the two — but there wasn't much to choose," said a despondent Stevenson. "The irony of the game in Prague was that I was at full-back, the first time I've been in that position for a year."

Sealey had an unbroken 44-game run last season and signed a new contract this summer.

The Londoner has no grumbles, despite his eagerness to reclaim the number one jersey.

"I'm happy with City," he says. "Perhaps if I'm in the reserves by the New Year I'll re-think the situation. It's hard to drop down after the glamour of Division One."

"I've matured as a person and I'm not so impatient now. I'm going to work hard to get back and if I do I'll try to make the most of my chance."

NO BOOST

NEIL MARTIN, Walsall's new joint-manager, has hit out at fellow Midland clubs.

He said that he approached all his near neighbours asking them to loan him some players in an attempt to boost his side which made a poor start to the season.

But he claims that no club in the area was able to offer any direct help in this department and this saddened the former Nottingham Forest and Coventry City striker.

Herd hunting

ARSENAL, Newcastle and Leicester City are all watching the progress of Falkirk striker Willie Herd, who cost only £30,000 from East Fife a year ago.

Gunnars' coach Don Howe and chief scout Wilf Dixon have already travelled North to watch the 21-year-old and a deal could be made in the near future.

Another young Scot in demand is Ayr full-back Steve Nicol, who played recently for the Scottish Under-21 side which beat Sweden 4-0 at Easter Road. Middlesbrough manager Bobby Murdoch watched him in Edinburgh, but isn't prepared to meet Ayr's valuation of £250,000 of the teenager.

Ayr are in no hurry to sell and Everton have already had an initial enquiry knocked back. Liverpool, West Ham, West Brom and Rangers are also watching the youngster.

Worthy partner

ONE of the early success stories at Birmingham City is Neil Whatmore, who has quickly slotted into the St. Andrews side.

Whatmore is now looking forward to forming a good partnership with Frank Worthington, who has returned to Birmingham City following a spell in the United States.

He said: "I've no regrets about moving from Bolton. I had previously played in the First Division and it was my ambition to get back as quickly as possible.

"Birmingham are a very good club. This is sometimes overlooked when you consider the more fashionable clubs, but there is a lot of potential at St. Andrews.

"I was under this impression when I decided to leave Bolton and it has been confirmed in the few weeks I've been in the Midlands."

Briefly

● Double leg break victim Lil Fuccillo has signed a new contract at Luton to tie him to his first and home town club until 1983.

● How many of you who have seen the soccer/War film "Escape To Victory" spotted the not too deliberate mistake in the football match?

One of the Nazis was substituted — subs didn't come into operation until much later.

● Tottenham's Paul Miller, F.A. Cup Final star, is about to become a businessman.

Defender Paul has formed a company with his father-in-law . . . lifelong Spurs fan Maurice Keston.

It is called Paul Miller Sports Ltd and will deal in sports trophies, souvenirs and travel.

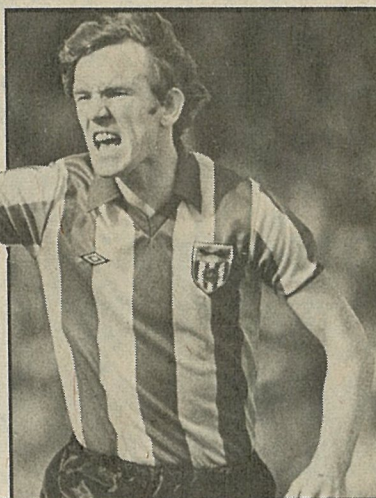
● The Craigavon Branch of the Manchester United Supporters' Club have voted Old Trafford and England idol Steve Coppell their "Player of the Year" for 1981.

Bowyer bounces back

IAN BOWYER is the forgotten man at Sunderland . . . but he is ready to burst back into the First Division spotlight.

The former Nottingham Forest midfield player suffered a bad knee ligament injury shortly after his move to Roker Park last season.

But his recovery has been quicker than expected and he will be challenging for a first team place shortly.



Toshack raps boo-boys

JOHN TOSHACK has taken a verbal swipe at Swansea City fans. Despite The Swans' impressive start to the season, the Vetch Field boo-boys have been making life a misery for Dai Davies, the Welsh international goalkeeper who took over from favourite David Stewart.

"I've been angered and sickened by what I've heard," says Toshack. "What we've done here has been a miracle. I've built three teams and now I'm trying to

build a fourth.

"I thought at Preston, when we won promotion last season, we had forged a relationship with our supporters which could only get better. I've been around long enough to ignore such abuse, but I'm concerned for my players.

"They must learn that barracking is not the way to help a side win honours. "Dai made a mistake the other week and a huge section of the crowd got on his back."

Davies shrugged it off by saying: "The fans are entitled to their choice and have favourites. One day you're a tin god — the next a tin can."

SHOOT'S FANTASTIC FREE GIFTS!

SHOOT has kicked-off the season with a spectacular hat-trick.

First came our superb full-colour All-Time Winners poster, which was given away with SHOOT's start-of-the season issue (5th September).

Then came our famous colour League Ladders and team-tabs for all the English and Scottish Divisions.

This week you can start your collection of SHOOT'S TOP 20 STRIKERS with the first four colour picture cards and display folder, packed with statistics and information, to put them in.

Over the next four weeks you will receive a further 16 FREE PICTURE CARDS of some of football's best goalscorers to complete the set.

SHOOT'S TOP 20 STRIKERS is a free gift every soccer fan should own.

Avoid disappointment and stay with the winning team by placing a regular order for SHOOT now!

Peter Stewant EDITOR

Hero Falco almost quit Spurs



● Cambridge United are this year to sponsor the Cambridge City Council Amenities and Recreation Department's firework display to be held on Midsummer Common on Thursday, 5th November.

● Former World Cup referee Pat Partridge (Cockfield) has joined Bishop Auckland. The Drybroughs Northern League club, famous for their Wembley glory in the old F.A. Amateur Cup days, invited Partridge to become a committee member.

Partridge retired from the Football League list last season after a distinguished career.

● Gateshead are turning out to be the shock team of the non-League world after the opening weeks of the season.

With new signing Terry Hibbitt in top form, the North-East club have soared to the top of the Northern Premier League.

● The Football League have agreed that the previously banned Adidas 'Tango' ball can be used for League matches.

MARK FALCO, the 20-year-old Spurs striker who loves to score on the big occasions, nearly left the White Hart Lane club before the season started.

Falco, who scored twice in the 2-2 Charity Shield draw against Aston Villa (seen above) and registered another couple in the 3-1 first-leg European Cup-Winners' Cup success against Ajax in Amsterdam, had a queue of clubs seeking his services.

They included Notts County, Leicester, Norwich and Fulham and it was odds on Falco going until Garth Crooks had to have a cartilage operation before the season started and was ruled out for two months.

Hackney-born Falco, former London, Hackney and Middlesex schools and England Youth player, is revelling in his extended run in the first team and says: "I believe it can only help me become a better player."

It was former West Ham centre-half Dickie Walker, now a Spurs scout, who spotted Falco playing for Hackney Boys and he joined Spurs at 14.

Dick recalls: "His parents were Tottenham supporters so there wasn't too much difficulty in getting him."



Scotland's Steve Archibald tests N. Ireland 'keeper Pat Jennings at Hampden Park.

SCOTLAND v N. IRELAND... REPUBLIC

Stein's not celebrating... YET!



THE message has been clear since Jock Stein took over the Scotland team manager's job three years ago — the hysteria which surrounded the team before Argentina would not be repeated if he could help it.

And the message has been received by the players and the supporters who wait to see if Scotland can get the one point they need in Belfast to make sure of a summer in Spain.

They lead the group with ten points — and that total could be enough to carry them into the World Cup Finals for the third successive time.

But Stein would have none of it after the two goal win over Sweden.

"We are not there yet," he snapped to one reporter who looked on qualification as automatic.

"We need one point more before we can celebrate anything. What we have done so far is to go about our jobs properly."

Then, looking forward to the Belfast clash with Northern Ireland, Stein commented: "The Irish want to go to these Finals, too. They need four points.

"It would have been nice if both of us just needed that single point — but that isn't how the section has worked out.

"Now we have to go there and battle it out with them. It would be fine if we both went through, but there is no guarantee of that the way things stand at this moment.

"We can all look at the section and think that perhaps Portugal will drop something in Israel — but we can't take risks. We need one point and we know how hard the Irish made it for us at Hampden in our last qualifying match against them.

"We drew 1-1 that night but they will have to come out a bit more against us at Windsor Park. It'll be a different game because much more of the pressure will be on them because they do have to get both points to be able to draw level with us.

"The best thing is that we are in the most commanding situation in

the group with the most points and the best goal-difference.

"The ten points *could* be enough. I said before the game that a side could get through with just nine points and that's still possible.

"What we have to do is hope that all our players will be available for the Irish game and then go there to do the job."

Meanwhile the usually beaming Irish boss Billy Bingham was a little more tense than usual after seeing the Scots beat the Swedes.

Originally Bingham had said he wanted a Scotland win — "It would kill off the Swedes' late challenge," he explained.

Then on the eve of the match he changed his mind.

"I have looked at all the permutations and a draw would suit us best of all."

Maintains

It didn't work out that way and like Stein, Bingham maintains:

"This is going to be a hard match, just as hard as the first qualifying game at Hampden.

"We want to be there, so do the Scots and we both need points. It's unfortunate it's happened this way."

It is . . . because the Portuguese boss who left Hampden enthusing over Asa Hartford's performance and Joe Jordan's goal sees the Scots as the team who can help him through.

"If they get a point in Ireland then it will make it easier for us," he smiled.

"We will have worries in Israel because that is our hardest game but if Scotland have qualified then the last game in Lisbon should be easier against them."

That may not be the case, though. Stein insists: "We want to win our section in style if we can . . . we don't just want to scrape into the Finals. So we'll be full out in every game, believe me!"

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pts	Max
Belgium	7	5	1	1	12	6	11	13	
Republic	7	3	2	2	14	9	8	10	
Holland	6	3	1	2	8	5	7	11	
France	5	3	0	2	12	5	6	12	
Cyprus	7	0	0	7	4	25	0	2	

To play: Eire/France, Holland/Belgium (Oct. 14); France/Holland (Nov. 18); France/Cyprus (Dec. 5).

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pts	Max
Czech.	6	4	1	1	14	3	9	13	
Wales	6	4	1	1	10	2	9	13	
USSR	4	3	1	0	11	1	7	15	
Iceland	7	2	1	4	8	19	5	7	
Turkey	7	0	0	7	1	19	0	2	

To play: Turkey/USSR (Oct. 7); Wales /Iceland (Oct. 14); USSR/Czechoslovakia (Oct. 28); USSR/Wales (Nov. 18); Czechoslovakia/USSR (Nov. 30).

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pts	Max
Scotland	6	4	2	0	8	2	10	14	
N. Ireland	6	2	2	2	5	3	6	10	
Sweden	7	2	2	3	5	7	6	8	
Portugal	5	2	1	2	4	4	5	11	
Israel	6	0	3	3	2	8	3	7	

To play: N. Ireland/Scotland, Portugal/Sweden (Oct. 14); Israel/Portugal (Oct. 28); N. Ireland/Israel, Portugal/Scotland (Nov. 18).

Eire must win — and hope

IT'S becoming a habit when previewing the Republic's games to bill them as the most important ever in the country's history. But the last two have been just that.

Eire have only one point to show from those two vital away games against Belgium and Holland. Yet they still have a chance of getting the runners-up spot in Group Two.

On the same evening as Eire fought back twice to get a draw in Rotterdam, Belgium booked their ticket to Spain by beating France 2-0. That gave Eire renewed hope and they are still in with a chance, slim though it may be, of getting the second qualifying spot.

First they must beat France at home next Wednesday and hope that Holland draw with Belgium (same night) and that the Dutch will also take a point off the French in Paris on November 18th. That would mean Eire to go through with ten points.

Alternatively Holland, if they win both of their remaining games,

OF IRELAND v FRANCE... WALES v ICELAND

Welsh avalanche

WALES go in against Iceland on Wednesday needing an avalanche of goals to spur their fading chances of qualifying from Group Three.

"It is the perfect game at the perfect time," says Wales manager Mike England after seeing his side drop three points out of the last four.

His star striker Alan Curtis adds "... and, at Swansea, on the perfect pitch! I've scored three goals from 21 internationals and that isn't good enough. This is my chance to do something extra for Wales and improve my average at the same time."

After dropping a point at home to the USSR and then losing their unbeaten record in Prague, Wales know exactly what is needed: a crushing scoreline against the Icelanders just in case it comes to a goal difference finish; then to follow up with a point against the Russians in Tbilisi.

Both England and rival manager Josef Venglos rated the Curtis display in Prague as the finest individual contribution in the Wales side. His brilliant control and willingness to take knocks as he shielded the ball produced twists and turns of almost Trevor Francis genius.

"Yet I didn't score," insists Curtis bluntly — ignoring the fact,

as so often in his games for Wales, he was forced to play with meagre support. Nevertheless, the pace of Curtis and his quick shooting gave Czech goalkeeper Stanislav Seman more problems than the rest of the Welsh team put together.

"After my injuries and other problems at Leeds, it has been marvellous for me to return to a Swansea side in such terrific form — and win back my Wales place after almost two years," says Curtis.

"The lads put four past Iceland on their own Reykjavik pitch to start the group competition going so promisingly. Now we must look to do even better at the Vetch Field."

John Toshack's team now dominate the Wales squad. Manager England looks certain to go for the full blast of Swansea scoring power on the Vetch Field surface they know so well: a strike force of Curtis, Leighton James and Jeremy Charles up front with



Alan Curtis (light shirt) seen Bicoovsky clear for the Czechs in Prague.

Robbie James just behind them coming through on midfield runs.

Charles, badly missed in Prague, is the perfect foil for Curtis. "I think the record shows that I'm at my most effective when I have a target man to hit," says Curtis.

But Wales will have to do more to Iceland than lean on them to make them fall over. A 1-1 draw with the Czechs not only reopened the way for Wales, but also gave warning of Iceland's potential.

"Since we scored those four goals, they have beaten Turkey twice and come within six minutes of a draw against Russia before losing, rather unluckily, 1-2 as well as that draw with the Czechs," points out England.

Commit

As when he boldly master-minded Wales into the lead in Group Three by stripping down the side to three defenders for the victories against Iceland, Turkey and Czechoslovakia (at Cardiff), manager England will commit Wales to total attack.

He rates his squad, when at full strength, as the finest in Welsh football history and the best in Britain: and the Scots can hardly argue for they were sliced apart at Swansea last May. As a sorrowful Peter Nicholas said on the coach back from Prague's Rosinsky Stadium: "I only wish that England had our group and we had theirs. If it had worked that way, we would be in Spain already."



French full-back Bastien keeps a close watch on Eire's Mick Robinson.

could get through with eleven points. And even if Eire do beat France, Hidalgo's men could still get through on goal difference provided they beat Holland and Cyprus. It's as clear as mud!

So, the stage is set for a capacity 51,000 crowd at Lansdowne Road next week. The game has a four o'clock kick-off which means that Holland will know what they have to do before they take on Belgium in Rotterdam.

Despite their dreadful away record, Eire are almost unbeatable

in Dublin. In fact, it's nine years this month since they lost a competitive home game.

After missing the game against Holland because of suspension, Gerry Daly seems certain to regain the number seven shirt to the exclusion of Mick Martin.

John Devine, who impressed at left-back against Holland, could keep Chris Hughton out. The only other likely change would seem to be in attack.

Steve Heighway, 34 next month, does not have the pace of old. Gerry Ryan, his second-half replacement against Holland, did not impress. Indeed the Brighton player has failed to make the position his own in previous outings.

So, it seems certain that Eoin Hand will have to look elsewhere for a winger, unless he decides to play three strikers.

Ipswich Town's Kevin O'Callaghan, who made his international debut against Czechoslovakia last April, is the obvious choice if a winger is required.

Terry Donovan was not included in the panel for the Holland game, but he was in the Aston Villa reserves at the time. Since then Terry has been in great form for the League Champions and the Eire manager must have been impressed.

Make no mistake about it, Eire can beat France. But whether they will have the luck required to see the other countries in the group cancel each other out remains to be seen.

'We can afford to lose'

WHILE the Irish have simply got to win this one, the view in the French camp after three successive defeats by Brazil, Stuttgart and Belgium is that a draw is the best result to be expected in Dublin.

The French skipper, Michel Platini, even reckons: "A defeat wouldn't be a disaster, because we can clinch second place in the group by beating Holland and Cyprus at home."

In recent years the French, with top names like Platini, Larios, Six, Rocheteau and Lacombe in their line-up, have been rated among Europe's most talented teams, so the air of pessimism about the trip to Dublin seems strange.

Their manager Michel Hidalgo explains: "Too many of our key players suddenly seem to have lost their confidence, and even very special players like Didier Six are just disappearing from view during matches."

"I've been thinking very long and hard about our approach to this game against the Irish — who are tough opponents — and there could be important changes."

Meanwhile, many French critics have been accusing Hidalgo of exactly that — making too many changes.

The debuts of Hiard in goal and Mahut in the back four against Belgium (replacing Dropsy and Specht) brought the total of players used in France's five World Cup outings to 25, though to be fair to Hidalgo, injuries to Rocheteau and Tigana forced him to experiment with midfield and attack.

"The worst thing," says Platini, "is that several of our team in Brussels just didn't seem to be motivated — which is inexcusable in a World Cup tie, when the future of French football is at stake."

"This is an attitude that we must correct against the Irish, and we must play with more commitment, even though we know how difficult it is to get a good result against them on their own soil. Even if we lose, we must lose playing well..."



MARK Higgins is fit again — now he wants his first team place back and a bag full of England caps.

The young Everton central defender has been plagued by injuries during the past two seasons, at times thinking that his

problems with his balance.

"It was something that had been bothering me for quite some time," says Higgins. "Fortunately, the problems seem to be behind me. All I want now is to get on with establishing myself again."

Higgins has been at Everton for seven years. He made his debut a day after his 18th birthday, but at

ter City amongst them.

"I chose Everton because they were closest to my home in Buxton," he says. "I was impressed with the set-up, and I had one or two friends at Goodison at the time. I didn't fancy uprooting and moving to London."

Higgins still lives in Buxton, and does a round-trip of some 100

miles to and from Everton every day, to train. He was recently married, and refuses to give up the country life where he enjoys a game of golf (handicap 10), some clay pigeon shooting and crown green bowls when football does not demand his time.

He also helps to run his father's pub. John Higgins was on Bolton's books as a centre-half for 13 years, winning an F.A. Cup medal in 1958.

Mark has plenty of time on his side, but the next twelve months may prove to be a crucial period in his career.

HIGGINS' NIGHTMARES ARE OVER

career may be at an end and that he may never get the chance to play for his country.

In December, 1979, Higgins shattered his ankle playing for the reserves against Aston Villa. It was broken in three places and, worse still, the ligaments had been ripped off the bone.

"I couldn't believe the mess my ankle was in," says Higgins. "I was in hospital in Birmingham for two weeks. I thought about nothing, except whether I would play again."

"The path to recovery was a long one, and I wasn't entirely convinced that I would make it. But the physiotherapist at Everton, Jim McGregor, did a marvellous job."

In fact, Higgins was playing again nine months later. He was on the verge of returning to the side when he suffered a broken nose — twice! The first time in a training accident.

More recently he has undergone an operation on a leaking ear drum, which was causing him

23 he has still not claimed a regular place at Goodison Park.

"The past two years have obviously been frustrating. Not that I've been on the sidelines totally. I've had a handful of matches, but because of the injuries I've been in and out of the side."

"I feel better now than I have done for a long time. I'm enjoying my game again."

Higgins' ultimate ambition is to play for England, adding a full cap to the schoolboy and youth honours that he won. He holds the record number of schoolboy caps, 19, and it was his performances at a tender age that attracted some of the country's top scouts.

He could have joined any number of First Division clubs, Manchester United, Arsenal, Leeds United, Tottenham and Manches-



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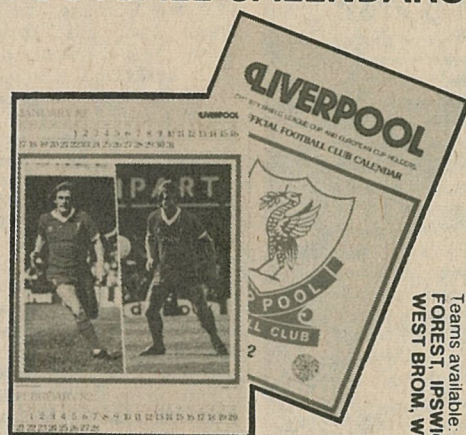
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WITH our World Cup fate no longer in our own hands, all we can hope for is that Switzerland and Norway approach their games against Rumania and Hungary with the same spirit and enthusiasm they showed against us.

There is always this nagging doubt that one or two of their best players from foreign clubs won't be available . . . that the fans won't get behind their team with the same fervour . . . or that the Norwegians and Swiss won't count Rumania or Hungary as quite as big a scalp as England.

Being realistic, England are all but out of the World Cup. The 0-0 draw in Bucharest between Rumania and Hungary was the worst result possible for us, although I discount any suggestions it was 'stage managed' or an 'Eastern European conspiracy'.

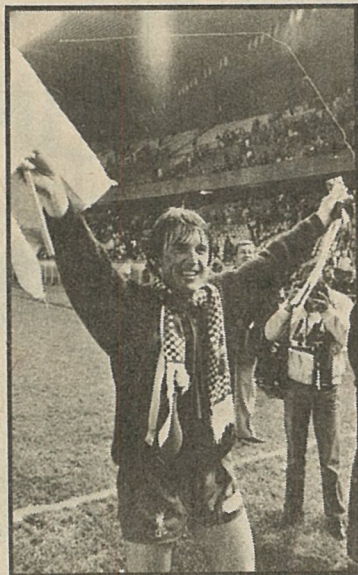
Our best hopes lie with the Swiss doing something against Rumania. The Rumanians aren't the best of travellers and England know that Switzerland aren't pushovers.

Tough

In Basle, the Swiss showed a lot of endeavour, working hard for each other, and backed by a noisy crowd made life tough for us. If they can produce a repeat performance against Rumania we may just be back in business.

It mustn't be forgotten that the Swiss aren't out of the race. Their tails will be up after beating us, and if they believe in themselves when they travel to Bucharest on Saturday they will be capable of causing an upset. They'll get players behind the ball and they have forwards who are deadly on the counter-attack. If the Swiss win in Rumania, it would not only open the door for us again, but put them in a situation where they could qualify.

Maybe there are too many ifs and buts . . . but what else can we say? Rumania and Hungary must have thought we'd take care of Switzerland and Norway. We didn't



. . . and it's such a funny group, with everyone beating everyone else, that one more shock result would almost be par for the course.

My hopes have been up and down like a yo-yo since June. Playing twice a week for West Brom has obviously kept me busy, although my thoughts have turned to England. I've asked myself a thousand times why we blew our chances and still haven't come up with a good answer.

I think we must take a look at our playing system. Perhaps we should become a team that isn't necessarily too pretty to watch or play against, but gets results.

We've given away some dreadful goals — eight conceded in seven ties is poor going. When I look at Scotland, who have played it tight at the back, I can't see that they have more class players than us, yet

"Liverpool's style rather than their star Scotsmen make them European Champions."

they've not given away silly goals.

I'm not sure whether we should get the players to fit a system or a system to fit the players, but we must take some positive steps, World Cup or no World Cup.

I believe our clubs will do well in Europe again this season. True, Liverpool and Ipswich are reinforced by Scots and Dutchmen, but they play a winning way.

I take nothing away from Alan Hansen, Graeme Souness and Kenny Dalglish, but it's Liverpool's style of play rather than individual stars that had made them European Champions.

Elimination

I'm not sure how any World Cup elimination will effect League gates. I hope the newspapers and television don't go too strongly on this as supporters may read it and feel they shouldn't go to matches.

It would be interesting to conduct a poll amongst fans to ask them whether they'd rather see their club win the League title . . . or England win the World Cup.

There may be doubts about an unsuccessful England side harming the League scene, but a successful national team would surely boost domestic football.

For the first time in my career I'm experiencing the sort of pressures I used to read about and couldn't understand how they bothered players.

My name has hardly been off the back pages; if I go shopping people



BRYAN ROBSON

Writes for you

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Max
England	7	3	1	3	12	8	7	9
Rumania	6	2	3	1	4	3	7	11
Hungary	5	2	2	1	6	6	6	12
Norway	7	2	2	3	7	11	6	8
S'land	5	1	2	2	7	8	4	10

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Rumania/Switzerland (Oct. 10)
Hungary/Switzerland (Oct. 14)
Hungary/Norway (Oct. 31)
Switzerland/Rumania (Nov. 11)
England/Hungary (Nov. 18)

ask me if I'm staying or going; if I'm out having a meal someone will want to know why we lost in Oslo; if the phone rings it's usually a transfer enquiry.

The pressures come mostly from the disappointment of seeing the World Cup slowly disappearing, although as a professional I accept such questions and situations.

They're part and parcel of the job.

The First Division table should sort itself out by the end of the month. It still has an unfamiliar look about it, although West Ham impressed me and look as if they'll stay the course.

They have the right blend of youth and experience in the best positions. Striker Paul Goddard particularly caught my eye.

Playing the sort of exciting football they do, West Ham have been a welcome boost after the Norway defeat.

Yet I still can't help thinking England are the best team in the group, but didn't hit it off on the night.

Come on Switzerland!

Bryan Robson

VILJOEN'S REMARKABLE TURN-AROUND

COLIN Viljoen epitomises the changing fortunes of a footballer's life.

South African midfielder man Viljoen, out in the cold at Chelsea for most of last season, is one of the key men in new boss John Neal's plans to lead Chelsea back to the First Division.

Viljoen, who claims he was cold shouldered by the previous Chelsea management team of Geoff Hurst and Bobby Gould, had a miserable time in 1980-81. But John Neal's arrival at Stamford Bridge heralded the start of a new challenge for Viljoen.

"It's certainly been a remarkable turn-around for me," he says. "I knew the only way I had a future at Chelsea was if there was a change of management. Happily, that happened during the summer and I've been given a chance."

Neal, says Viljoen, is an honest straight-forward boss who tells you where you stand. "That suits me fine. I think everyone knew I didn't have a cat in hell's chance of first team soccer with Chelsea as long as the previous management pair were here."

"But I think Geoff and Bobby cut off their own noses to spite their faces. It rebounded on them."

Reservations

Viljoen admits to certain reservations about Chelsea's chances of a return to the First Division this season. "I think everyone feels we need a few more experienced players. If you look at most of the sides that have won promotion from Division Two in recent seasons, they've all had a lot of wise old heads to help the youngsters."

"I'm sure the boss is looking for new men. Without them, it certainly could be a struggle to get up this season."

Chelsea started well, with two wins in the first two games. Then, two consecutive defeats set them back. "That knocked the confidence a little," says Viljoen. "But it's up to us to get our sleeves rolled up, and battle back."

"I know one thing; I'll be very disappointed if we don't win promotion this season. I'll certainly be doing all I can to help Chelsea go up."

"The Second Division is a



different world from the First. It's too much like kick and rush football; the quality isn't the same. But despite that, you have to get out of it and prove you're good enough over nine months, which is a long time."

"I hope we can sort it out this season. The club needs First Division football badly and the players would love it, too."

STEVE Foster has welcomed the job of Brighton captain as a major boost to his own form. Whether his team-mates wholeheartedly agree with the choice is open to rather more doubt.

Foster says, tongue slightly in cheek: "The lads reckon I nag them just a bit more than I used to. They say I'm getting on their nerves these days, but that doesn't matter. If we do the business and my shouting has helped in any way, it will have been worthwhile."

Immense

Foster's team-mates are, of course, joking. They recognise the immense contribution of the big central defender. And 'Fozzie', as he is known to the Brighton players, believes the captaincy will help him become an even greater asset to Brighton's cause this season.

"A lot of players wouldn't want the captaincy. I've heard them say they don't produce their best form when they're worried about what the other lads are doing. But it works the other way for me. I feel a greater sense of responsibility. I feel that if I want the other lads to try a bit harder during a match, they have to see me doing just that. So I've found it has helped me improve," says Foster.

"I used to shout all the time

anyway, to encourage the lads. The only difference now, is that I'm the official skipper and I have to do it. I find I have concentrated more since I took over as captain."

Brighton have introduced a new, tighter defensive system under new manager Mike Bailey. Foster believes it will help the Sussex club establish themselves in the First Division without the fear of relegation which has dogged them for the past couple of seasons.

"We have to keep our discipline at the back much more under Mike Bailey," says Foster. "Defenders can still go forward, but there has to be plenty of cover at the back before we can move up."

Foster recognises the immense task he faces to succeed as skipper to the extent Brian Horton managed. Foster says: "Brian was a great leader."

"He had such respect from other players that I can only hope to gain half as much. The lads reckon I've always been a moaner on the field, but I won't complain if the results go for us. So it's up to the lads — if they don't want me to nag them, they'll have to produce the form which means plenty of points!"

"I think our bigger squad and greater experience will be vital this season. We feel confident and have more players available. You must have strength in depth in this Division, and we are now getting that. It could make a big difference to us."

CAPTAIN FOSTER LOVES TO NAG!



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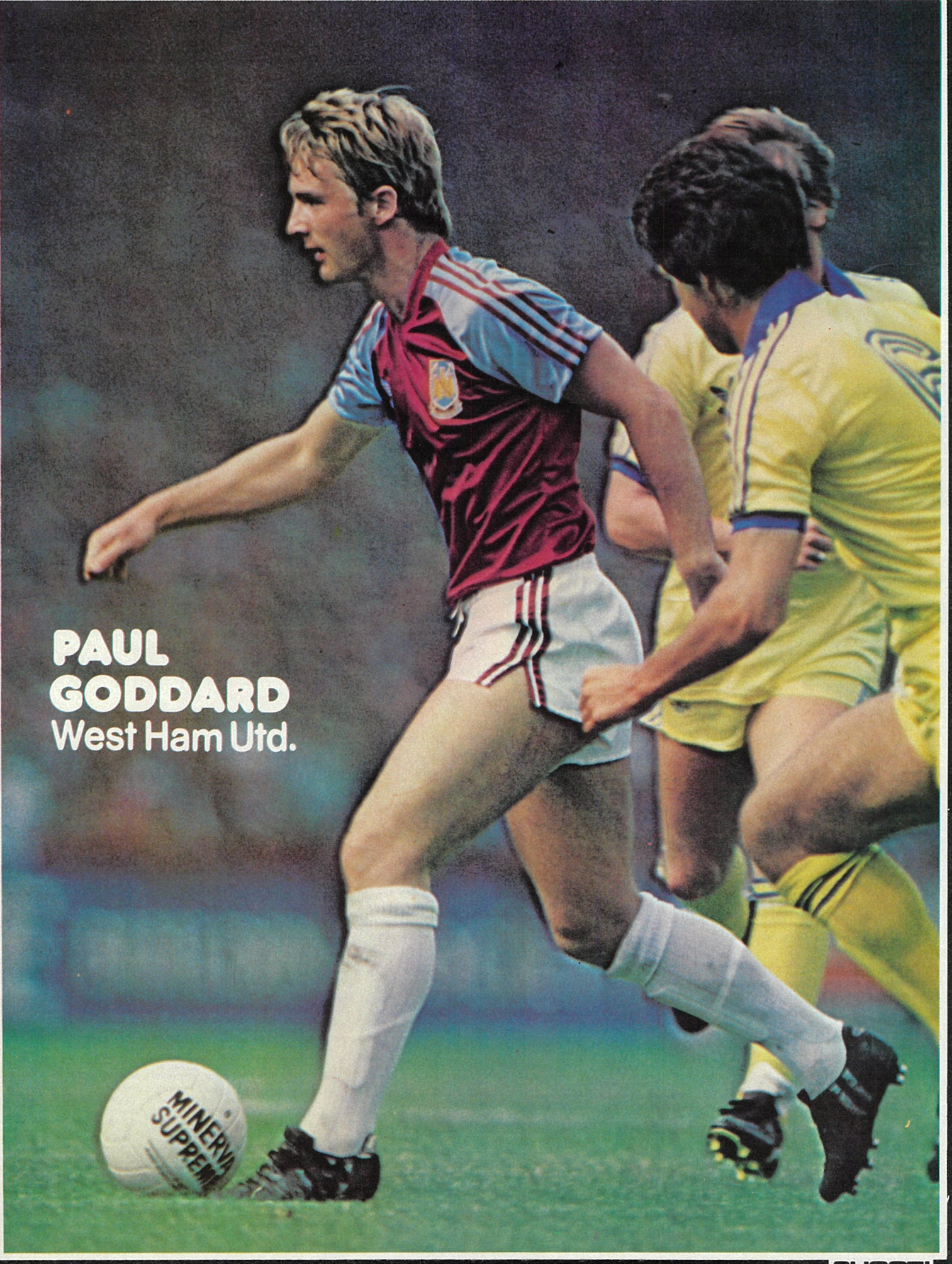
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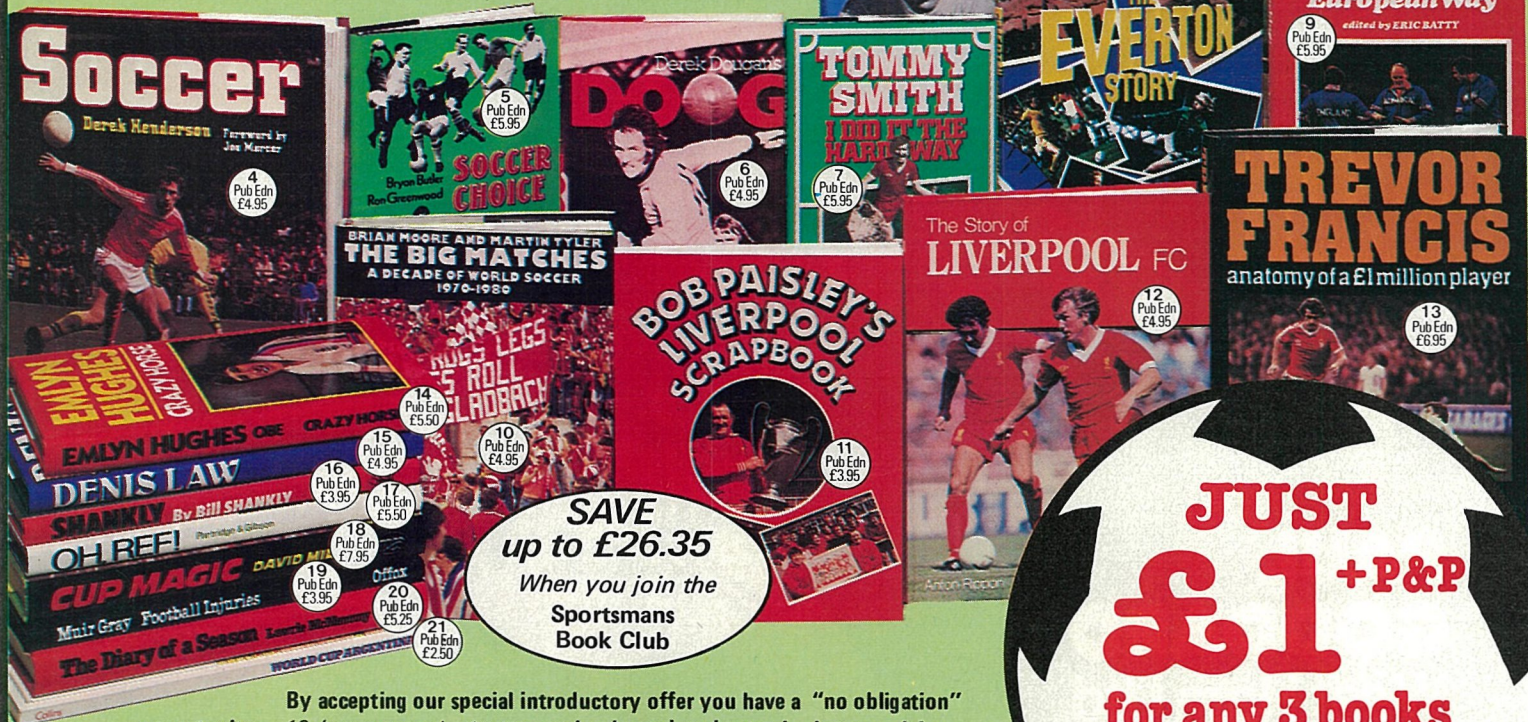
A full-page action photograph of Paul Goddard, a footballer for West Ham United, in a maroon and light blue kit. He is dribbling a white football with 'MINERVA SUPREMA' printed on it. A defender in a yellow kit is chasing him from behind. The background is a blurred stadium.

**PAUL
GODDARD**
West Ham Utd.

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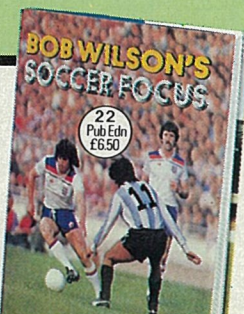
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SUCCESSFUL PAIR

FRANK WORTHINGTON (Birmingham)

Were you worried when Birmingham signed striker Neil Whatmore while you were in America during the summer?

**Dave Kelly,
New Zealand.**

ON the contrary, Dave, I was delighted. Neil and I had played together at Bolton, and he was responsible for setting up a lot of the 24 goals which made me the First Division's leading scorer in 1978-79. He can also score regularly. I saw a video of Blues' 4-3 defeat of Forest and thought Neil took his two goals really well. I'm sure we can combine to make a really successful partnership.

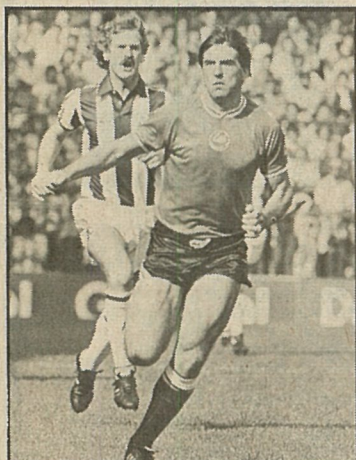
BEST GOAL

BOB LATCHFORD (Swansea)

Which is the best goal you have ever scored in your career?

**Steven Ross,
Halesowen.**

I'D have to say my first goal for England, Steven. It came against Wales in the 1978 British Championship. A cross from the right went over my head, and when Peter Barnes knocked it quickly back in from the opposite flank I had to get right across the goal-mouth in order to reach his centre and head home past Dai Davies, my new Swansea team-mate, of course.



BIRD MAN

ALEX MacDONALD (Hearts)

I hear you are nicknamed the Bird Man of Tynecastle. Why is this?

**Thomas Cunningham,
Leith, Edinburgh.**

A FEW years ago I inherited two canaries and found they were so much fun that I decided to build a mini aviary at my house at Kilsyth. Now I have scores of all sorts of birds and I find them a most relaxing hobby away from the rigours of football. Hence, the nickname.

TARGET FOR 1981-82

JOHN WARK (Ipswich)

After your tremendous goalscoring feats last season, how many are you aiming to score this time?

**Paul Mills,
Cardiff.**

I ALWAYS look to get somewhere around the 15 to 20-goal mark every season, Paul, and I'll be delighted if I can achieve that figure again this time. I did wonder whether I ought to up my target a bit after last season, but I can't



honestly expect to be on target quite so often this season, though. But I must admit I am pleased with the way things have started for me — four goals in our first six League games.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATERIAL?

DAVID CROSS (West Ham)

Do you think West Ham are good enough to win the League Championship after their marvellous start to the season?

HAVE YOU A QUESTION FOR YOUR FAVOURITE STAR? WRITE TO: You Asked, Players Answer, SHOOT Magazine, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. Overseas readers state which size T-shirt you want: small, medium or large.

**Sandra O'Brien,
Epping.**

HOLD on there Sandra — it's much too early for us to be thinking about the League title. Obviously everybody at the club is delighted with our start to our first season back in Division One, but nobody is getting carried away. We have 15 points from our first seven games — and in the final reckoning that is something they can't take away from us. All I will say is that we have proved we can win games in the First Division, and I think we will beat more teams than beat us.

DEANS HITS SIX

ALAN ROUGH (Partick Thistle)

Is it true that you once conceded six goals to one player?

**Sean Graham,
Maryhill.**

I AM afraid so, Sean. Several seasons ago Celtic went on the rampage against Partick Thistle on a wet and windy afternoon at Parkhead and we lost 7-0 with Dixie Deans scoring six. The Scotland striker was unstoppable that day.



CONFIDENCE

GORDON COWANS (Aston Villa)

After being on the fringe of full England international honours, why did your form dip so alarmingly?

**Stuart Pearce,
Solihull.**



I BELIEVE this season will be my best ever. My confidence has returned and that's good news. There is still a lot of room for improvement though. I'm not getting in enough tackles and I'm still giving the ball away with the odd silly pass. I have got to concentrate even more than I did in the past. But I am confident it is all coming right for me on the pitch and that I should be pushing for that England cap very soon.

CRITICISM

GRAHAM ROBERTS (Spurs)

Ray Clemence has been under fire this season. Is the criticism of him fair?

**James Goddard,
Edmonton.**

I CAN'T see how any 'keeper in the world would have saved most of the goals we've conceded in our League games. Ray's been outstanding and he hasn't been given the sort of cover he could hope to expect. We're an attacking team and because of this there is inevitably pressure on the back-four, with so many people going forward. All the players are delighted to have someone as experienced as Ray at the back.

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1977 Man. Utd. 2, Liverpool 1. 200ft col silent and col sound.
1976 Southampton 1, Man. Utd. 0. 200ft col silent and col sound.
1975 West Ham 2, Fulham 0. 200ft B/W and col silent; 200 ft col sound.
1974 Liverpool 3, Newcastle 0. 200ft col silent.
1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0. 200ft B/W and col silent.
1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1. 200ft B/W silent.
1966 Everton 3, Sheff. Wed. 2. 300ft B/W silent.
1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1. 200ft B/W silent.
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UNSUNG HEROES

Every new season produces some surprise headline makers, and this term has been no exception. Here we take a look at some of the unlikely lads who have made the news.

Aston Villa striker Terry Donovan (right) who stepped out of the reserves to hammer five goals in five games, including two against Spurs.

Coventry's Steve Whitton (right) helped his manager settle a few old scores when he netted the winner against Manchester United.

Charlton's teenage striker Paul Walsh (dark shirt) in high flying action as he heads his second goal against Grimsby at The Valley.

Handshakes all round for Birmingham striker Tony Evans after netting a hat-trick against Manchester City.

Mark Falco has stepped in with some valuable goals for Spurs and given the sidelined Garth Crooks something to think about this season.

On the ball CROSSWORD

ACROSS:—

(3) Stagger. (4)
(4) Doncaster Rovers play at the Belle — Ground. (3)
(6) The sharper this is the more difficult it is to score. (5)

(7) Trevor —; Peterborough defender (5).

(10) Perform. (3)

(14) Geoff —, Wolves defender. (6)

(15) Neil —, Swansea City defender. (8)

(17) Ken —, Aston Villa defender. (8)

(18) Scottish Division Two club from Station Park ground. (6)

(19) If Wimbledon, Clydebank & Rangers give "LEG"; what do Bristol City, Reading & Tottenham give? (3)

(21) Feel. (5)

(23) Ian of Crystal Palace or Paul of Charlton Athletic. (5)

(24) Arbr — h play at Gayfield Park. (3)

(25) It could be the centre one or the penalty one, for instance. (4)

DOWN:—

(1) A quick — may lead to a goal. (5)

(2) Jim —; Aberdeen 'keeper. (8)

(4) By way of. (3)

(5) Chester play at — land Road. (3)

(8) Frank —, West Ham defender. (7)

(9) Willie — r; Wolves midfielder star. (3)

(11) Passes to the middle. (7)

(12) Rob Hind —; Sunderland stopper. (5)

(13) — Engineers were beaten in the first F.A. Cup Final in 1871/2. (5)

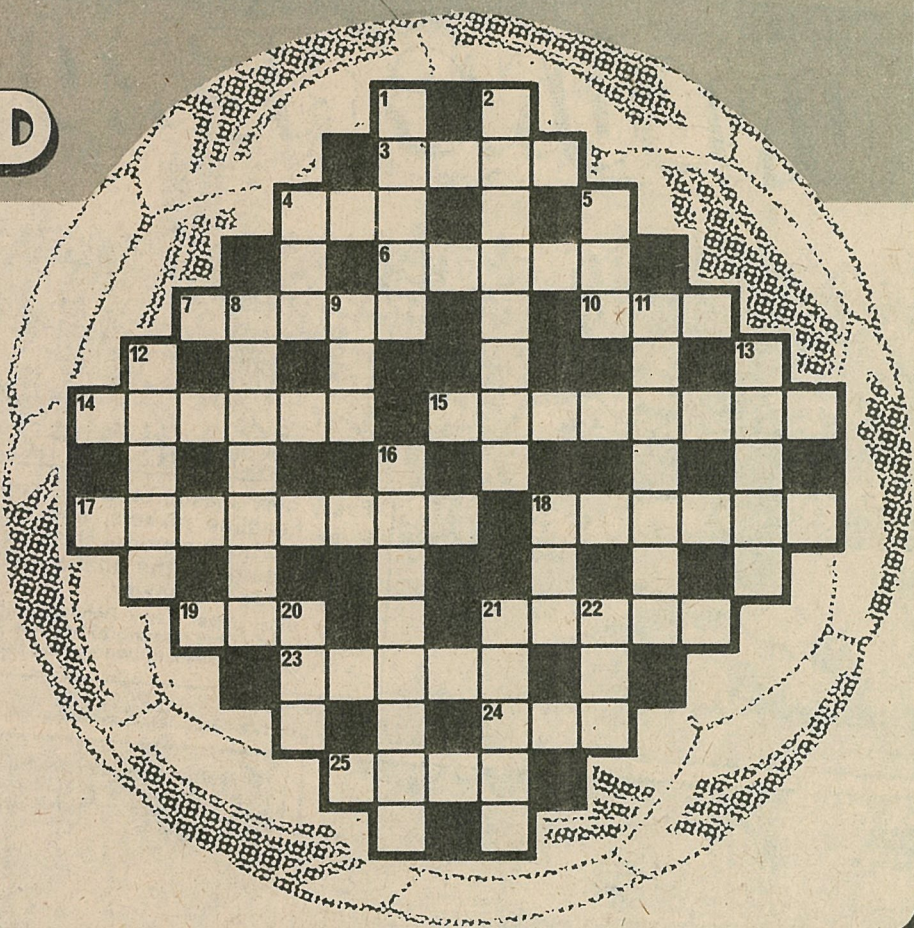
(16) Leighton —; Welsh international defender. (8)

(18) Cost of a transfer. (3)

(20) Cr — play at the Gresty Road ground. (3)

(21) Attempts to score. (5)

(22) Mickey — ton; Chelsea defender. (3)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 44

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'DON'T CHOP OUR GOLDEN OLDIES'

IT seems fashionable at the moment to knock Rangers Football Club after a few recent bad results.

That's okay by me. I don't mind criticism so long as it is constructive. But when everybody and his uncle is urging the gaffer, John Greig, to race around and chop everyone over the age of 30 it appears to me that some people are hitting the panic button prematurely.

FACT: We lost 3-0 in Czechoslovakia to Dukla Prague in the First Round of the European Cup-Winners' Cup...

FACT: We followed that up by losing 2-0 to Celtic in the opening of our new £10 million stadium...

FACT: We can play better than we did on both those occasions and we aim to prove it in the coming months!

I know we let down our fans with our displays in Prague and at Ibrox. I don't need anyone to underline that those were dreadful scores for our club.

Thrown Out

But I can hardly agree with the people who suddenly want players such as Colin Jackson, Sandy Jardine, Tommy McLean, Alex Miller, Colin McAdam, Peter McCloy, Tom Forsyth and Willie Johnston all thrown out of Ibrox.

They may be on the 30 or over mark, but that, of course, doesn't necessarily make them bad players.

Some folk say Mr. Greig's greatest problem is replacing himself in the team after all the leadership and

courage he displayed throughout the years.

Those same folk should remember that Mr. Greig played a few years past that magical 30 mark!

It's inevitable that changes will be made at Ibrox, but they will be well thought out moves by Mr. Greig.

I find it rather frightening that critics can suddenly forget the Rangers performance in the Scottish Cup Final when we demoralised Dundee United 4-1 in the Hampden replay back in May.

Are they trying to tell me that Tom Forsyth, outstanding that evening, is suddenly useless only a few months afterwards? No one in their right mind would agree with that!

Well, what went wrong in Prague? I had said before the game in my Tartan Talk column that we must play it tight for the first 30

minutes and box clever with our opponents.

Unfortunately we hardly had a chance to draw breath when Dukla were a goal up! They scored in only four minutes and from then on we were under pressure.

We took the sting out of their attacks and just when we were about to fight back and get into the game again they scored a second.

Ordered Off

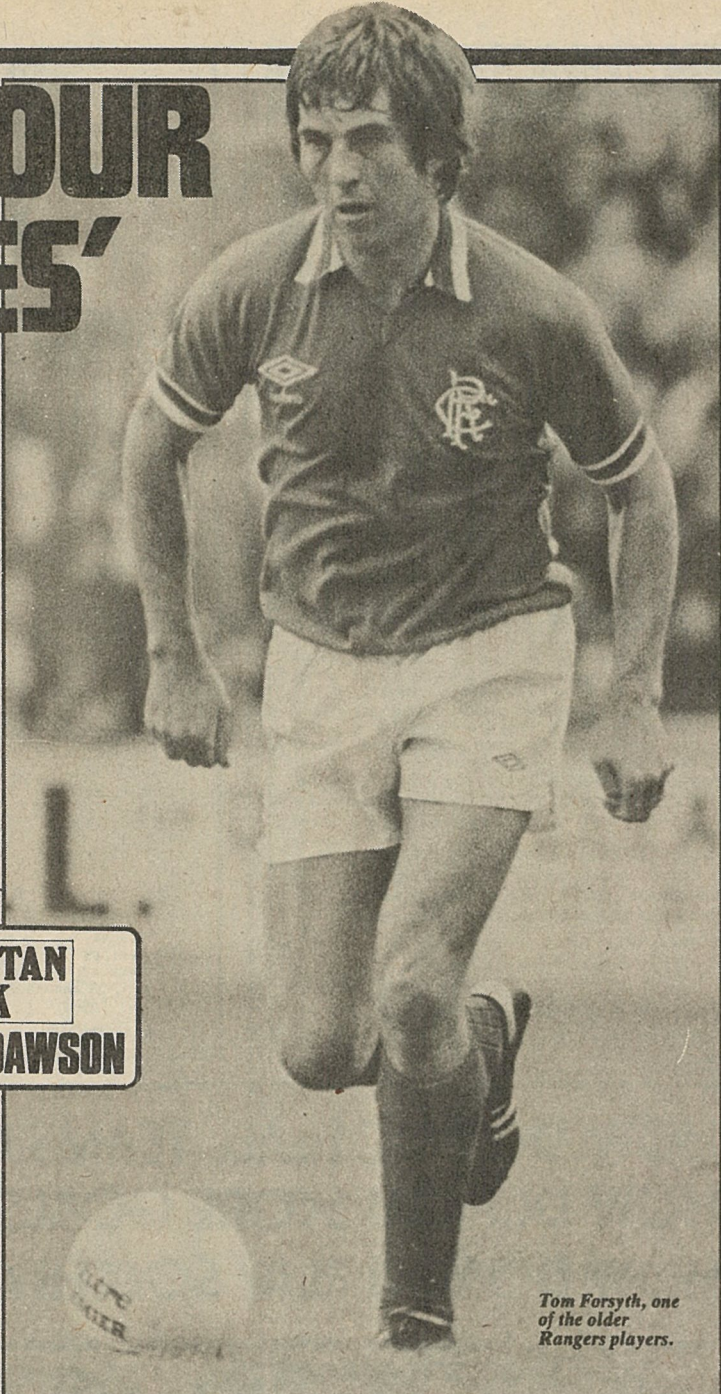
A third followed and we knew it wasn't going to be our night when we had an effort cleared off the line and then Tommy McLean, our best player in Prague, was ordered off.

Those sort of things happen in Europe and you must accept them. It is a big League where every mistake is pounced upon.

I had also said just how important a good run in Europe is to the club and the fans. We missed out in Europe last season and 90 minutes against Dukla this season is hardly likely to keep our supporters happy.

We realise all this and the players and Mr. Greig will give their everything to try to rectify the situation, but I stress there is no panic at Ibrox. A couple of good results will give our confidence a boost and

TARTAN TALK
ALLY DAWSON



Tom Forsyth, one of the older Rangers players.



Colin Jackson halts Frank McGarvey, the Celtic striker.

possibly scare the vultures away.

Against Celtic, we were obviously still suffering from a Dukla hangover, but things again could have been so different.

We had our chances, but the ball just wasn't running for us. I hit one effort from 25 yards in the first-half that would have gone in nine times out of ten... this time, however, Pat Bonner made an excellent save. That's the way it goes.

We played Celtic when we were downhearted while they were on the crest of the wave after beating Juventus in the European Cup.

We also had a tiring journey from behind the Iron Curtain while they only had to travel across Glasgow. Maybe fortune will smile on us in the next match.

Before I go I would also like to comment upon the statistic that someone came up with after that Old Firm game. I was told the average age of our team that afternoon was 28 while Celtic's was 23.

Obviously it would be better for the future of the club to have a lower average age and with young players pushing to get into the first team, but I don't recall the likes of Real Madrid and Brazil in their magical years having particularly youthful teams. Age shouldn't matter. It's the ability that counts.

Oh, by the way, I had to laugh at the reporter who stated that Colin McAdam was nearer 31 than he was 30... Colin celebrated his 30th birthday only a month ago! I wonder if he has got his telegram from The Queen yet.

Ally Dawson

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ALAN Ramage, powerful central defender for Derby County and hostile pace bowler for Yorkshire, is the last of the line. "I just can't see that there is any room left for the 12 months a year sportsman," he says sadly.

British sport used to be dotted with the names of men like Denis Compton and Leslie Watson, Willie Watson and C. B. Fry who were giants as both footballers and cricketers. Now, believes Alan, that tradition is at an end.

"The era of men who played for England at both sports, like Watson, is long gone. Now I think that time is just about running out for all-rounders like Phil Neale, who plays in the League for Lincoln City and first class cricket for Worcestershire, and myself.

"It is tours, either end of season

football club trips or full scale international programmes, which finally made the dual sportsmen decide their priorities. But for years now all the demands have been coming thicker and faster.

"Training is far harder, for instance, while the seasons now cut across each other. Denis Compton would finish football on one Saturday in time for the cricket season to start on the next one. That doesn't happen any longer."

So how does Alan cope and why does he try so hard to make both ends meet? "The second part of the question is easy to answer — because I love sport 12 months a

year. I have to be fit; I need to be competitive every day of my life.

"My life goes something like this. In February when football approaches its most demanding time, I start cricket training. Every Wednesday evening, I drive up the M1 from my home in Derby to the Yorkshire indoor school at the Headingley ground in Leeds.

"There, with those cricketers not on tour, I start working out under our coach Doug Padgett — then, of course, I drive back again to be ready for training next morning at the Baseball Ground. The only Wednesday nights I miss are those when Derby have a League match.

"In late March-early April as the weather improves, the schedule becomes tighter. Yorkshire now start outdoors. That means I train with Derby in the mornings and then drive to Leeds in the afternoons to work with the Yorkshire players.

"This is the point where you must decide which sport comes first — and that has to be football. This season I expect to go all the way to the last fixture... because Derby County are going to be a very good bet for promotion!



Alan Ramage, Derby's versatile defender.

HOWZAT!

RAMAGE IS 50,000 NOT OUT!

Preparing for the cricket season as one of Yorkshire's pace bowlers.

"Cricket for Yorkshire takes over totally only when everything is shut down at the Baseball Ground. In July, I played my last game for Yorkshire on a Sunday, a John Player League match against Essex at Chelmsford, to report back for the start of pre-season training on the Monday."

Surely, with his fitness being unequalled by few men in Britain, Derby could have given Alan two or three more weeks at cricket? "Not really. To be part of a football club that wants to succeed, you must be involved from day one," he answers.

Alan has just finished an outstandingly successful season for Yorkshire, hardly missing a day's cricket during the time he was available. That followed one of the very few breaks in his life — he missed the last 12 matches of last season for Derby with a cartilage operation.

"My knee healed more quickly than I thought and I was able to

bowl in top nick almost from the start," he says. But those few weeks represented his first real break since he became a regular first teamer at both sports five years ago.

His debut in first class cricket was as a 16-year-old: less than 12 months later, he was playing in the First Division for Middlesbrough. From 18 onwards, Alan has raced around Britain covering an estimated 50,000 miles a year.

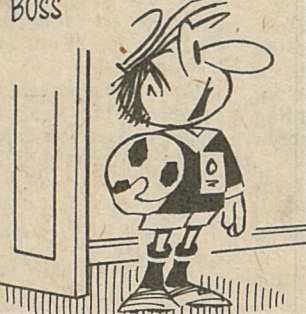
'Stranded'

In those circumstances, his best friends are his wife and his garage. "Marriage could not survive without a wife who loved sport too," he agrees. "My wife, Alison, often comes with me. As for driving — my one fear is being stranded."

"But it is all worth it. You could not possibly live my kind of life unless you enjoyed it to the hilt. My ambitions for 1982 are to see Colin Addison and John Newman lead Derby County to promotion... and Yorkshire win something in cricket again. The First Division is the only place for Derby while Yorkshire exists to win Championships!

NOBBY

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I'VE BEEN ASKING THE BOARD FOR MONEY FOR NEW PLAYERS



AND THEY TURNED YOU DOWN, EH?



WORSE THAN THAT, THEY ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT MY £20,000 A YEAR WAS FOR!



I F I had my way, you'd be seeing a lot less of me on TV in action for Liverpool. Because I think one of the main reasons for falling gates is there's too much coverage of football on the small screen.

Take it from me, players are very concerned about the number of stayaway fans and the long term effect it could have on our profession. We haven't lost sight of the fact our wage packets are dependent on the paying customer.

We worry about the thinning ranks on the terraces and the lack of atmosphere at some games. The fans are the lifeblood of football.

Crowds are well down on last season. Some people have dropped out through disenchantment, but I'm convinced most, rather than go to the trouble and expense of actually going along to matches, have settled for armchair viewing.

According to one chairman, a staggering 14 million watch tele-

'The attendance for our match against Champions Aston Villa was ten thousand down'



'TOO MUCH TV FOOTBALL'

vised football at weekends.

The attendance for our home game against Aston Villa, billed as a match of Champions, was ten thousand down on last season due to the certainty of it being televised.

The box-watcher can often take in six games a week: one midweek, two on Saturday and three on Sunday.

I'm not advocating a ban on TV. It can stimulate interest with preview programmes, such as Bob Wilson's 'Football Focus', and we mustn't penalise people who can't get to grounds. The very young and old, the disabled, and those who live in out of the way places.

No, the solution is to reduce the number of games shown to one midweek, and one on Saturday and Sunday.

The way things are going, we could finish up with the same dire situation that exists in West Germany, where, according to Kevin Keegan and Tony Woodcock, gates have taken an even bigger nosedive due to soccer saturation on TV. One programme shows just about every goal scored in the Bundesliga!

At least over there shirt advertising is allowed to be shown, and sponsors' fees help pay the bills. I can't understand the logic behind our TV companies' refusal to follow suit, in view of the fact that there's



PHIL THOMPSON
My soccer world

no objection to adverts around the grounds.

The lack of big stars, players who can pull in the crowds, is sometimes put forward for the gates decline, but I don't agree. We still have our fair share of crowd-pullers, such as Kevin Keegan, Trevor Francis, Kenny Dalglish and the two Argentinians at Spurs, Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa.

When Spurs paraded them at

'We still have crowd-pullers — such as Kevin Keegan'

Anfield in the 1978-79 season, following Argentina's World Cup win, they put an extra 10,000 on the gate. The packed house inspired us to a 7-0 win, no reflection on the two South Americans who had not adjusted to the English game.

I do believe the over-inflated fees bandied about in the Press and the rest of the media reflect badly on the game in the present recession. You can't expect people counting their pennies to be excited about million pound transfers.

I applaud the League tribunals for introducing sanity by cutting down the astronomical asking prices, as they did with Frank Stapleton.

I'm also in favour of anything that

promotes more attacking football, though I'm not sure the awarding of three points for a win is a good thing. When a team gets one goal ahead, particularly away from home, there's the temptation to go on the defensive.

Points for goals is something I'd like to see tried.

The cost of match-going is very high, what with paying for travel, a ticket and refreshments, and fans of clubs like Liverpool — involved in a European competition, two domestic Cups, and a heavy League programme — can no longer afford to go to as many games as before.

Reducing

So that's one argument for cutting down the number of games we play. And that means reducing the First Division — from 22 to 18 clubs.

With eight League games fewer, players would be fitter, mentally and physically, and able to conform to a higher standard.

Hooliganism is a terrible blight on our game and deters families in particular from going to games. All-seater stadiums can help to curb them, although I can't see a permanent solution — short of deportation to some kind of Devil's Island.

Without doubt, football is set for a period of great change. If its problems are tackled promptly and properly, it will not only survive, it will prosper!

Join me next week when I'll be previewing our next European Cup game, and also paying my personal tribute to the late Bill Shankly.

Phil Thompson

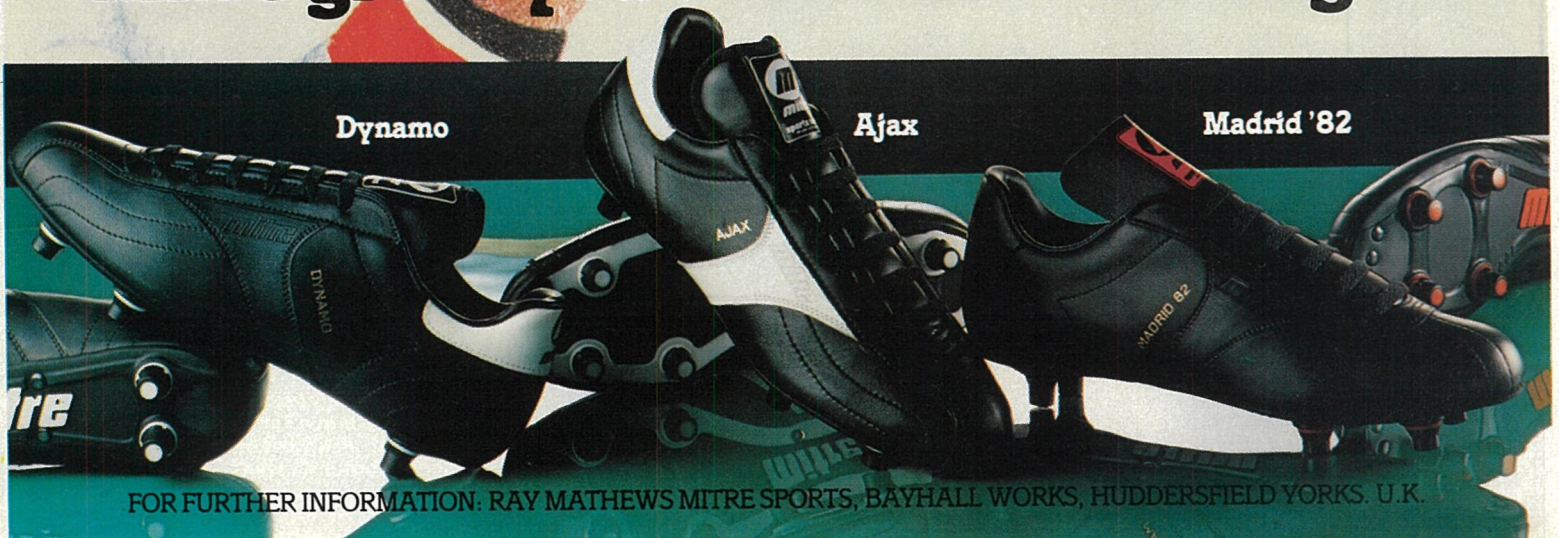




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ASTON



BACK ROW (left to right): Eamonn Deacy, Des Bremner, Gary Williams, Jimmy Rimmer, Ken McNaught, Allan Evans, Colin Gibson, Gordon Cowans.

VILLA



FRONT ROW: Tony Morley, David Geddis, Dennis Mortimer, Ron Saunders (manager), Kenny Swain, Peter Withe, Gary Shaw

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

If Dennis Mortimer can lay his hands on the gleaming European Cup in Rotterdam on the night of May 26 next year, Aston Villa will silence forever the minority of fans who cling feverishly to memories of the immortal Villa heroes of the past decades.

Villa's illustrious history — First Division winners seven times and a record seven F.A. Cup wins — has proved an awesome burden for the club's nine managers in hard times since the last War.

To lay to rest the ghosts of "Pongo" Waring, Harry Hampton and Billy Walker, all prolific goalscorers, has been the objective of them all in the past 30 years.

Sadly, the majority failed miserably to fulfil their ambitions.

Ron Saunders is proving to be a different proposition. He steered Villa to the First Division title for the first time since 1910 last

VILLA AIM FOR EUROPEAN GLORY

season and is within a whisker of achieving an even greater feat on the fields of Europe this term.

For it they can win the European Cup and keep it in England for the sixth successive season, the "new" Villa will have trodden territory never enjoyed by Waring and the wonder players at Villa Park before the last War.

Villa's determination to cast away the albatross of a glittering past was never more evident than when Terry Donovan, Peter Withe and Tony Morley reduced Valur Reykjavik to an Icelandic rabble by scoring five goals between them to gain a foothold on a place in the last 16 of the European Cup.

The threat Villa pose in Europe and in the First Division guarantees flourishing home gates this season. Their start in the League has not been as stunning as their initial flurry last season but Gary Shaw's instep injury blunted their dagger thrust in the early stages.



Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish is thwarted by the acrobatics of Aston Villa's 'keeper Jimmy Rimmer.

Ken Swain from full-back, Mortimer and Gordon Cowans thrusting from midfield, Tony Morley darting forward menacingly on the flanks... Villa have almost as much variety as a pocket calculator.

And there, in the middle, to score the goals are Peter Withe, rated by many the best striker in the country, and Gary Shaw, at 20 one of the most exciting prospects for a long time.

Clubs do not win Championships and European glory if they have a poor goalkeeper — and Villa are no exception to the rule.

Jimmy Rimmer has shared his career with Manchester United, Swansea (on loan) and Arsenal before joining Villa. Many shrewd



Terry Donovan, the goalscoring stand-in for the injured Gary Shaw.



HONOURS

First Division Champions: 1893-94, 1895-96, 1896-97, 1898-99, 1899-1900, 1909-10, 1980-81.
Second Division Champions: 1937-38, 1959-60.
Third Division Champions: 1971-72.
F.A. Cup winners: 1887, 1895, 1897, 1905, 1913, 1920, 1957.
League Cup winners: 1961, 1975, 1977.

Donovan's goalscoring contribution as replacement for Shaw is a tribute to the depth of talent Ron Saunders has mustered. Donovan thought his career lay in ruins last season when his form in the reserves failed to gain him one first team appearance.

Five goals in Villa's first five games this season convinces him that he has a future with the club, even though Saunders is on record as saying he will release the Liverpool-born striker if he receives the right offer.

Few Villa players have experience of European competition because the club has

not appeared on the Continent in nearly four years. Their captain, Dennis Mortimer, warns against complacency, especially after the hammering they gave Valur.

"When we were in the UEFA Cup a few seasons ago we normally found a 2-0 result in the home leg was enough to see us through. There is more of the 'unknown' quantity these days.

"We weren't complacent in the opening League match against Notts County, yet we lost because we didn't get our game together."

Aston Villa's strength is the attacking options at their disposal whenever the claret and blue shirts pour forward.

observers believe that his talents show no sign of a decline despite advancing years.

He has received no finer compliment in his long and distinguished career than the warm applause Liverpool's Kop gave him when he came out after the interval in a League game last month.

Rimmer produced one of the finest displays of goalkeeping ever seen at Anfield. The scoreline should have read: Liverpool 0, Rimmer 0. Liverpool's machine went into full throttle that day with shots bombarding the Villa goal from start to finish. Rimmer's cat-like leap to deny Sammy Lee a goal was typical of his many fine saves.

The team is strong from one to 11 and no loss of flair despite Shaw's worrying injury suggests Aston Villa have the pedigree to bring further glory to the club this season.

People have pointed to Villa's slow start to the League season and claimed they cannot live with the pressure of being Champions, but they should wait until next May before criticising.

It is fairly certain that the trophy cabinet will not gather as much dust under Ron Saunders' refreshing management as it did in the lean days.



Higgins (stripes) forces his way past a Rangers defender.

RELEGATION? NEVER VOWS HIGGINS

TONY HIGGINS, all 6ft 3ins of him, growls at the cynics who predict gloom and doom for Partick Thistle after their rather lacklustre start to the new League season.

"I'm not going to argue with statistics," says the powerfully built Thistle striker. "They show clearly that we lost our opening three League games of the season to Rangers and Aberdeen (at home) and Dundee (away)."

"They don't show, however, just how well we played against Rangers and Aberdeen although, to be honest, we made mistakes against Dundee which deserved to be punished.

"But I would say Thistle had the bulk of the play in both games against the Ibrox side and The Dons yet we couldn't put the ball away and, in the end, the scorelines were farcical.

"Anyone watching those games will find it difficult to disagree with me. Rangers beat us 1-0 when the referee awarded them a late penalty kick which Tommy McLean converted.

"I don't like to disagree with referees — their job is difficult enough as it is — but, suffice to say, I didn't entirely see eye-to-eye with the official on that occasion!

"I had a couple of opportunities to score against Rangers, but Peter McCloy, brought in for the injured Jim Stewart, had one of those days when everything was going his way.

"I recall a few times when he was actually going in the wrong direction, but the ball hit him on the elbow or the ankle and was scrambled to safety.

"And against Aberdeen we were well on top for an hour when they scored from the simple tactic of a player throwing over a cross from the right and someone getting free of the defence to knock it in.

"They netted another shortly afterwards from a similar move and that was that.

"I would say in the three hours of football against Rangers and Aberdeen it would be fair to say we had around two hours of the play, yet couldn't capitalise upon it.

"So when people tell me Thistle are heading for relegation this time out I turn a deaf ear to them. Obviously they aren't watching us play. If they were they would realise that we have an awful lot to offer and there's no way that such a good team will be in trouble if luck evens itself out throughout the season.

"Thistle, however, must beware of losing too many points so early in this League. I've been over this course before with Hibs.

"Two seasons ago I was at Hibs when we got off to a bad start and people said we were too good to go down, but we did. Even the injection of George Best couldn't prevent relegation on that occasion.

"But there are vast differences from that Hibs side and this Thistle team. I just can't see us being in trouble.

'Walloped'

"We've had some daft results, but possibly it is a good thing to get these things out of your system early in the season. We were walloped 5-1 by First Division Ayr United at Firhill in a League Cup-tie, and a defeat like that takes some living down.

"But our next game was against Rangers only a few days later and I think that was a better reflection of our true form. We really should have won that game."

Any team with the likes of Alan Rough, Jamie Doyle, Brian Whittaker, Andy Dunlop, Donald Park and Alex O'Hara, as well as Tony himself, has too much class to be relegated . . . but the warning bells are ringing.

"Thistle relegated?" asks Higgins. "No chance!"

And no-one is prepared to argue with Tony Higgins, who can be Thistle's tower of strength in more ways than one this season.

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LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS..

Tuesday, September 15

League Cup

(First Round, second leg)

BARNSELEY (4) 6 (Glavin 2, Parker 2, Aylott, Barrowclough)
PETERBOROUGH (0) 0 11,198
 (Barnsley win 9-2 on agg.)

BRENTFORD (0) 0
OXFORD (0) 2 (Whitehead (o.g.), Foley) 5,490

BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 1 (Parkin)
CREWE (0) 0 4,050
 (AET. Rovers win 2-1 on agg.)

BURNLEY (2) 3 (Holt 2, Cassidy)
TRANMERE (3) 3 (Brown, Kerr, Kelly) 2,375
 (Tranmere win 7-5 on agg.)

CARLISLE (0) 2 (Lee, Hilton (o.g.))
BURY (1) 1 (Madden) 3,392
 (AET. Carlisle win 5-4 on agg.)

CHARLTON (0) 3 (Elliott, Hales, Robinson)
READING (1) 1 (Heale) 4,568
 (AET. Charlton win 5-3 on agg.)

CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Green)
DONCASTER (0) 1 (Douglas) 4,962
 (AET. Doncaster win on away goals)

FULHAM (0) 2 (Wilson, Beck)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 3,583
 (Fulham win 3-0 on agg.)

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (Price)
COLCHESTER (0) 1 ((Bremner)
 (Colchester win 3-1 on agg.)

HULL (1) 1 (Ferguson)
LINCOLN (1) 1 (Carr) 2,702
 (Lincoln win 4-1 on agg.)

NEWPORT 0
TORQUAY 0 4,203
 (Newport win 3-2 on agg.)

OLDHAM (2) 4 (Palmer 2, Wyde, Heaton)
BOLTON (1) 2 (Thompson, Berry) 4,779
 (AET. Oldham win 5-4 on agg.)

PLYMOUTH (1) 1 (Dennis pen)
CHESTER (0) 0 2,348
 (Plymouth win 2-1 on agg.)

PRESTON 0
HALIFAX 0 4,090
 (Preston win 2-1 on agg.)

ROCHDALE (1) 2 (Wellings, Hilditch)
HUDDERSFIELD (1) 4 (Fletcher 2, Robins, Kindon) 3,735
 (Huddersfield win 7-3 on agg.)

ROTHERHAM (1) 2 (Moore 2)
DARLINGTON (0) 1 (Charlton) 3,894
 (Rotherham win 5-2 on agg.)

SWINDON (0) 0
WREXHAM (0) 2 (Winter, Edwards) 6,776
 (Wrexham win 5-2 on agg.)

WALSALL (0) 1 (Penn)
BRISTOL CITY (0) 0 2,830
 (Bristol City win 2-1 on agg.)

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 (Cork pen)
ALDERSHOT (1) 3 (Garwood 2, Crosby) 2,181
 (Aldershot win 3-1 on agg.)

YORK (1) 1 (Byrne)
SHEFF UTD (0) 1 (Hatton) 4,750
 (Sheff Utd win 2-1 on agg.)

Scottish Second

STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 2 (Murray, Jack)
ALBION R. (0) 2 (Craig, Gillespie) 380

Wed, September 16

European Cup

(First Round, first leg)

ASTON VILLA (3) 5 (Morley, Withe 2, Donovan 2)
VALUR REYKJAVIK (0) 0 20,481
 A. Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Donovan, Withe, Cowans, Morley.

CELTIC (0) 1 (MacLeod)
JUVENTUS (0) 0 60,017
 Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Reid, Aitken, McAdam, MacLeod, Provan, Sullivan, Nicholas, Burns, McCluskey.

OULUN PALLOSEURA (0) 0
LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (Dalglish) 8,400
 Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, Lawrenson, Souness.

European Cup-Winners' Cup

(First Round, first leg)

AJAX (0) 1 (Lerby)
TOTTENHAM (2) 3 (Falco 2, Villa) 35,000
 Tottenham: Clemence, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Villa, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Falco.

DUKLA PRAGUE (1) 3 (Rada, Stambacher, Nehoda)
RANGERS (0) 0 35,000
 Rangers: McCloy, Jardine, Dawson, Forsyth, Jackson (Stevens), McClelland, McLean, Russell, McAdam, Bett, Johnstone (Redford).

SWANSEA (0) 0
LOKOMOTIV LEIPZIG (0) 1 (Kinne) 10,295
 Swansea: Davies, Robinson, Hadziabdic, Rajkovic, Attley, Mahoney, Charles, James (R), James (L), Latchford, Curtis.

UEFA Cup

(First Round, first leg)

IPSWICH (1) 1 (Thijssen)
ABERDEEN (0) 1 (Hewitt) 18,535
 Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, O'Callaghan (D'Avray), Brazil, Gates.
 Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Rougvi, Cooper, McLeish, Miller, Strachan, Watson, McGhee, Hewitt, Weir (Simpson).



Ipswich's Eric Gates beats Willie Miller of Aberdeen during their 1-1 U.E.F.A. Cup game at Portman Road.

LIMERICK (0) 0
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 3 (Moran 2, Armstrong) 10,000
 Limerick: Fitzpatrick, Nolan, Finucane, Hand, Storan, Meaney, Duggan (McDonald), Holmes, Kennedy, Walsh, Ward.
 Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Baker, Watson, Agboola, Keegan, Channon, Moran, Armstrong, Ball.

MONACO (0) 2 (Edstroem, Bellone)
DUNDEE UTD (2) 5 (Kirkwood 2, Dodds 2, Bannon) 22,0
 Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Holt, Hegarty, Narey, Kopel, Bannon, Phillip, Milne, Kirkwood, Dodds, Sturrock.

PANATHINAIKOS (0) 0
ARSENAL (1) 2 (McDermott, Meade) 27,000
 Arsenal: Jennings, Hollins, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Davis, Vaessen (Meade), McDermott, Nicholas, Rix.

GRASSHOPPERS ZURICH (1) 1 (Fimian)
WBA (0) 0 8,100
 WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, Moses, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Mills, Regis, Owen, Mackenzie.

League Cup

(First Round, second leg)

BLACKPOOL 0
BRADFORD 0 5,722
 (Bradford win 3-1 on agg.)

EXETER (1) 3 (Kellow pen, Fisher, Cooke)
CARDIFF (1) 1 (Sugrue) 4,449
 (AET Exeter win 4-3 on agg.)

HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 (Newton, Houchen)
NORTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Denyer) 1,975
 (Northampton win 3-2 on agg.)

PORTSMOUTH (2) 4 (Rafferty, Doyle, Kamara, Berry)
SOUTHEND (1) 1 (Spence) 10,019
 (Portsmouth win 4-1 on agg.)

MILLWALL (0) 3 (Chatterton, Dibble, West)
ORIENT (0) 2 (Moores, Jennings) (Millwall win 4-3 on agg.)

Scottish League Cup

(Quarter-Final, first leg)

FORFAR (0) 1 (Morris)
ST MIRREN (0) 1 (McAvennie) 3,200

Scottish First

AYR (0) 1 (Frye)
ST JOHNSTONE (0) 1 (Docherty) 2,366

CLYDEBANK (2) 4 (McGorm, Miller, McCabe, Fallon)
DUNFERMLINE (0) 1 (Morrison) 664

E. STIRLING (0) 0
QUEEN'S PARK (1) 1 (Nicholson) 350

HEARTS (1) 2 (MacKay, Hamill)
HAMILTON (0) 1 (Wright) 3,500

Friday, September 18

Fourth Division

COLCHESTER (1) 3 (Adcock 2, Cook)
TORQUAY (0) 0 2,820

CREWE (1) 2 (Haslegrave, Chesters pen)
ALDERSHOT (2) 3 (Garwood 2 (1pen)), Sanford) 1,956

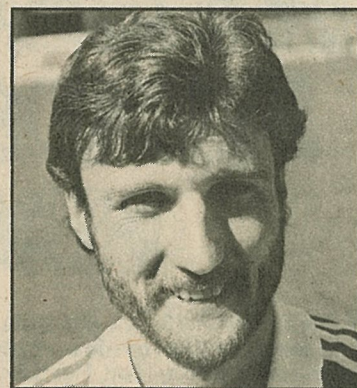
STOCKPORT (1) 3 (Uzelac, Fowler, Sword)
PETERBOROUGH (0) 0 2,382

YORK (0) 1 (Walwyn)
HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 (Houchen, Newton) 2,244

Sat, September 19

First Division

BIRMINGHAM (1) 3 (Evans 3)
MANCHESTER CITY (0) 0 20,109
 Birmingham: Wealds, Langan, Dennis, Dillon, Broadhurst, Todd, Brocken, Whatmore, Evans, Handysides, Van Mierlo (Worthington).
 Man. City: Corrigan, Bond, Caton, Reid, Booth, Tveart, O'Neill, Gow, Francis, Hutchison, Reeves (Boyer).



Garry Birtles of Manchester United.

BRIGHTON (1) 2 (Robinson, McNab pen)
COVENTRY (1) 2 (Kaiser, Hunt) 15,262
 Brighton: Moseley, Shanks, Williams, Grealish, Foster, Gitting, Case, Ritchie (Stevens), Robinson, McNab, Smith.
 Coventry: Blyth, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyon, Gillespie, Kaiser, Daly, Thompson, Whitton, Hunt.

LEEDS 0
ARSENAL 0 21,410
 Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray (E), Flynn, Gray (F), Cherry, Harris, Graham, Connor, Stevenson, Barnes.
 Arsenal: Jennings, Hollins, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Nicholas, Young, Davis (Devine), Rix, Sunderland, McDermott.

LIVERPOOL 0
ASTON VILLA 0 37,470
 Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.
 A. Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Donovan, Withe, Cowans, Morley.

MANCHESTER UTD (1) 1 (Birtles)
SWANSEA (0) 0 47,309
 Man. Utd: Bailey, Gidman, Albiston, Wilkins, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Macari, Birtles, Stapleton, McIlroy (Moses).
 Swansea: Davies, Robinson, Hadziabdic, Rajkovic, Irwin, Mahoney, Curtis, James (R), Attley, Thompson, Latchford (Giles).

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 1 (Osman (og))
IPSWICH (1) 4 (Brazil 2, Wark, Muhren) 12,559
 Notts Co: Anramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Hunt, Kilcline, Richards, Chiedozie (Lahtinen), Masson, Christie, McCulloch, Hooks.
 Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall, Thijssen (Turner), Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.

SOUTHAMPTON (2) 2 (Baxter (og), Moran)
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 20,105
 Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Baker, Watson, Waldron, Keegan, Channon, Moran, Armstrong (Rogers), Ball.
 Middlesbrough: Platt, Craggs, Bolton, Ross, Baxter, McAndrew, Cochrane, Otto, Woof, Wood, Bailey (Aschroft).

LINE-UPS... RESULTS...

STOKE (1) 1 (Heath)
NOTTM. FOREST (0) 2 (Walsh, Mills) 15,613
Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton, Dodd (Ursem), O'Callaghan, Smith, Griffiths, Heath, Chapman, Bracewell, Maguire.
Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Burns, Aas, Proctor, Wallace, Fashanu, Mills, Walsh.

SUNDERLAND 0
WOLVES 0 22,061
Sunderland: Siddall, Hinnigan, Munro, Buckley, Clarke, Hindmarch, Elliott, McCoist, Ritchie, Rowell, Pickering.
Wolves: Bradshaw, Humphrey, Parkin, Daniel, Gallagher, Berry, Hibbitt, Clarke, Bell, Matthews (Richards), Birch.

TOTTENHAM (0) 3 (Roberts, Hughton, Hoddle pen)
EVERTON (0) 0 31,219
Tottenham: Clemence, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Villa, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Falco.
Everton: Arnold, Wright, Ratcliffe, Walsh, Lyons, Thomas, McMahon (O'Keefe), Eastoe, Biley, Hartford, Ainscow.

WBA 0
WEST HAM 0 19,516
WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, Brown (Cross), Wile, Robertson, Deehan, Mills, Regis, Owen, Mackenzie.
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard, Cross, Allen, Pike.

Second Division

BOLTON (0) 0
OLDHAM (2) 2 (Palmer, Heaton) 7,222
Bolton: McDonagh, Henry, Bennett, Brennan, Jones, Gowing, Thompson, Kidd, Hoggan, Cantello, Carter.
Oldham: McDonnell, Hoolickin, Ryan, Keegan, Clements, Fletcher, Heaton, Atkinson, Steel, Palmer, McDonough.

CAMBRIDGE (1) 2 (Mayo 2)
BARNESLEY (1) 1 (Banks) 5,586
Cambridge: Webster, Donaldson, Murray, Reilly, Fallon, O'Neill, Streete, Spriggs, Mayo, Gibbins, Finney.
Barnsley: Horn, Joyce, Chambers, Glavin, Banks, McCarthy, Evans, Parker, Aylott, McHale, Barrowclough (Riley).

CARDIFF (1) 1 (Ronson)
BLACKBURN (2) 3 (Stonehouse 2, Pontin (og)) 4,253
Cardiff: Healey, Jones (Micallef), Sullivan, Sayer, Pontin, Dwyer, Lewis, Kitchen, Stevens, Ronson, Maddy.
Blackburn: Gennoe, Branagan, Rathbone, Hamilton, Keeley, Fazackerley, Miller, Burke, Stonehouse, Crawford, Brotherton.

CHARLTON (1) 2 (Walsh 2)
GRIMSBY (0) 0 6,075
Charlton: Johns, Naylor, Ferns, Gritt, McAllister, Phillips, Elliott, Walsh, Hales, Lansdowne, Robinson.
Grimsbey: Batch, Stone, Crombie (Kilmore), Waters, Wiggington, Moore, Ford, Whymark, Drinkell, Mitchell, Cumming.

LEICESTER (1) 1 (Lynex pen)
LUTON (0) 2 (White 2) 14,159
Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Gibson, Peake, May, O'Neill, Lynex, Melrose, Lineker, Wilson, Robson.
Luton: Findley, Stephens, Aizlewood, Horton, Saxby, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, White, Antic, Moss.

NORWICH (1) 2 (Watson, Jack)
NEWCASTLE (1) 1 (Waddle) 14,384
Norwich: Woods (Chris), Nightingale (Hart), Downs, McGuire, Walford, Watson, Barham, Shepherd, Woods (Clive), Paddon, Jack.
Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Davies, Trewick, Barton (Carney), Halliday, Walker, Martin, Varadi, Wharton, Waddle.

ORIENT 0
WREXHAM 0 2,899
Orient: Day, Fisher, Roffey, Taylor (T), Margerison (Hughton), Cunningham, Godfrey, Jennings, Moores, Bowles, Taylor (P).
Wrexham: Nidezwiecki, Jones, Bate, Downman, Cegielski, Hill, Fox, Hunt, Edwards, Vinter, Carrodus.

QPR (1) 1 (Stainrod)
CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0 17,039
QPR: Burridge, Gregory, Fenwick, Hazell, Roeder, Waddock, Flanagan, Stainrod, Allen, Currie, Gillard.
C. Palace: Barron, Hinshelwood, Cannon, Wicks, Gilbert, Price, Bason, Smillie, Walsh, Langley, Hilaire (Hughes).

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 1 (Megson)
DERBY (1) 1 (Powell (S)) 23,764
Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Sterland, Williams, Smith, Shirliff, Taylor, Megson, Mirocevic (Mellor), Bannister, McCulloch, Curran.
Derby: Jones, Coop, Buckley, Powell (S), Ramage, Powell (B), Emery, Reid, Hector (Wilson), Swindlehurst, Emson.



Watford's Gerry Armstrong.

SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Biggins) 5,616
CHELSEA (0) 0
Shrewsbury: Wardle, Leonard, Johnson, Petts, Griffin, McLaren, Tong, McNally, Atkins, Biggins (Edwards), Bates.
Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Rofe, Viljoen, Pates, Chivers, Walker, Bumstead, Lee, Mayes (Driver), Fillery.

WATFORD (0) 1 (Armstrong)
ROTHERHAM (0) 0 10,644
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Jackett, Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Callaghan, Jenkins, Armstrong, Rostron, Barnes.
Rotherham: Mountford, Forrest, Breckin, Green, Stancliffe, Mullen, Towner, Rhodes, Moore, Fern (Gooding), Henson.

Third Division

BRENTFORD 0
PLYMOUTH 0 4,890

BRISTOL CITY (0) 2 (Mann 2)
NEWPORT (1) 1 (Aldridge) 7,552

BURNLEY 0
HUDDERSFIELD 0 6,485

CHESTER 0
MILLWALL 0 2,052

CHESTERFIELD (0) 3 (Bonnyman, Windridge 2)
FULHAM (0) 0 4,019

EXETER (0) 1 (Kellow pen)
SWINDON (1) 2 (Williams, Carter) 4,372

LINCOLN 0
CARLISLE 0 3,623

OXFORD (0) 0
WALSALL (0) 1 (Caswell) 3,685

PRESTON (0) 1 (Bruce pen)
GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (Westwood) 4,563

READING (0) 0
BRISTOL ROVERS (1) 3 (Randall, Stephens 2) 4,947

SOUTHEND (1) 2 (Spence, Gray)
PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 4,355

WIMBLEDON (0) 0
DONCASTER (0) 1 (Warboys) 2,364

Fourth Division

DARLINGTON (0) 2 (Speedie, Hamilton)
BLACKPOOL (1) 2 (Bamber, Morris) 2,485

HALIFAX (1) 1 (Davison)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1 (Funnell) 1,588

HEREFORD (0) 1 (Bray)
BRADFORD (2) 2 (Gallagher, Campbell) 2,802

HULL (1) 2 (Booth, Edwards)
SHEFFIELD UTD (1) 1 (Hatton) 7,219

MANSFIELD (1) 1 (Lumby)
BURY (1) 1 (Gore) 2,501

ROCHDALE (0) 1 (O'Laughlin)
PORT VALE (0) 2 (Keenan, Deakin pen) 2,750

SCUNTHORPE (0) 2 (Cowling, Moss)
TRANMERE (0) 1 (Mungall) 1,592

WIGAN (0) 3 (Glenn, Houghton, Quinn)
NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Denyer) 3,996

Scottish Premier

ABERDEEN (0) 1 (Simpson)
HIBS (0) 0 10,000
Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Rougvie, Cooper, McLeish, Miller, Strachan, Watson (Simpson), McGhee, Hewitt (McCall), Weir.
Hibs: McArthur, Sneddon (Schaeidler), Flavell, McNamara, Paterson, McLaren, Callaghan, Rae, MacLeod, Duncan, Murray.

AIRDRIE (1) 2 (Clark 2 (1 pen))
DUNDEE UTD (1) 1 (Payne) 3,000
Airdrie: Martin, Erwin, Rodger, Walker, March, McCluskey, McKeown, Clark, McGurie, Gordon, Flood (Campbell).
Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Holt, Kopel, Phillip, Hegarty, Narey, Bannon, Milne, Kirkwood, Sturrock (Payne), Dodds.

DUNDEE (2) 3 (Ferguson 2 (1 pen), Sinclair)
ST. MIRREN (0) 0 5,275
Dundee: Geddes, Barr, Cameron, Fraser, Glennie, MacDonald, Ferguson, Bell, Sinclair, Fleming, McGeachie.
St. Mirren: Thomson, Beckett, Abercrombie, Fitzpatrick, McCormack, Copland, Logan (McDougall), Stark, Bone, McAvennie, Scanlon.

MORTON (0) 1 (Docherty)
PARTICK (0) 0 3,500
Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Orr, Houston, Busby, Thomson (Ritchie), Hutchison (Cochrane), Docherty.
Partick: Rough, Doyle, Whittaker, Dunlop, Kay, O'Hara, Park, Higgins, Sweeney (McKinnon), Gibson, McDonald.

RANGERS (0) 0
CELTIC (1) 2 (McAdam, MacLeod) 45,000
Rangers: McCloy, Jardine (McAdam), Dawson, Forsyth, Stevens, Miller, Cooper, Bett, Johnstone, Redford, Johnston (MacDonald).
Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Reid, Aitken, McAdam, MacLeod, Provan, Sullivan, McGarvey, Burns, McCluskey.

Scottish First

DUMBARTON (0) 0
MOTHERWELL (3) 6 (Clelland 3, McLaughlin 2 (1 pen), Clinging) 1,200

FALKIRK (1) 1 (McIntosh)
ST. JOHNSTONE (0) 0 2,000

HAMILTON (0) 0
DUNFERMLINE (0) 2 (Morrison, McNaughton) 1,800

HEARTS (0) 1 (O'Connor)
CLYDEBANK (0) 0 6,000

KILMARNOCK 0
QUEEN'S PARK 0 2,400

QoS (0) 1 (Roddy)
AYR (2) 2 (Morris 2) 1,700

RAITH (0) 1 (Robinson)
E. STIRLING (0) 0 1,000

Scottish Second

ARBROATH (1) 1 (Hyslop)
BRECHIN (1) 1 (Lorimer) 859

CLYDE (0) 1 (McCutcheon)
ALLOA (0) 1 (Purdie) 650

EAST FIFE (1) 3 (Caithness 2, Burgess)
ALBION (0) 0 318

MONTROSE (1) 2 (Campbell, Allan)
FORFAR (1) 1 (Clark (og)) 650

STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 1 (Kirkland)
BERWICK (0) 1 (Tait) 300

STIRLING 0
COWDENBEATH 0 450

STRANRAER (0) 0
MEADOWBANK (1) 1 (Jobson) 350

Monday, September 21

Third Division

BRENTFORD (0) 0
GILLINGHAM (1) 1 (Tydeman) 5,420

SOUTHEND 0
SWINDON 0 4,578

Fourth Division

MANSFIELD (2) 4 (Nicholson, Lumby, Burrows, Mann)
NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Brady) 2,612

STOCKPORT (0) 1 (Sword)
SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 0 5,450

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Defensive Liverpool

Which club has the best Football League defensive record in a season?

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In 1978-79, they conceded only 16 goals (85 for) in their 42 matches. Only Villa (3-1 winners; one of those an own-goal) scored more than once against them — and Ray Clemence recorded 28 "clean-sheets". Of those 16 goals, only four were scored at Anfield.

Next-best in the First Division is 24 — by Liverpool twice (1968-69 and 1970-71), and Forest (1977-78).

Founded by Scotsman

Is it true that a Scotsman founded the English Football League?

SUBETY SAIDY, TANZANIA

● Quite right, it is, Subety. His name was William McGregor — a Scot who lived most of his life in Birmingham, and had connections with the Aston Villa club.

Known as the "Father of the Football League", it was he who circulated leading clubs with the proposal for the meeting on 22nd March, 1888 which led to its foundation. The very first matches were played on the following 8th September.

McGregor's precise birthplace isn't recorded — he came down South to England at a very early age — but it's believed to have been in the Glasgow area.

SHORT PASSES

● Jackie Milburn scored both goals in Newcastle's 2-0 F.A. Cup Final victory over Blackpool in 1951, and another in the 3-1 win over Manchester City in 1955. The goal in the 1-0 defeat of Arsenal in 1952 came from George Robledo.

(JAMES BRIDGER, Somerset)

● In the 1973-74 European Cup-Winners' Cup Final in Rotterdam — in which FC Magdeburg beat AC Milan 2-0 — the attendance was only 5,000.

(WILLIAM OWEN, Newark)

● Malcolm Macdonald scored 5 goals in 13 League games for Fulham; 49 in 88 for Luton; 95 in 187 for Newcastle; and 42 in 84 for Arsenal.

(JOHN QUIGLEY, Salisbury)

● Highest-scoring World Cup Final was in 1958, in Stockholm, when Brazil beat Sweden 5-2.

(CRAIG BURLINSON, Sunderland)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

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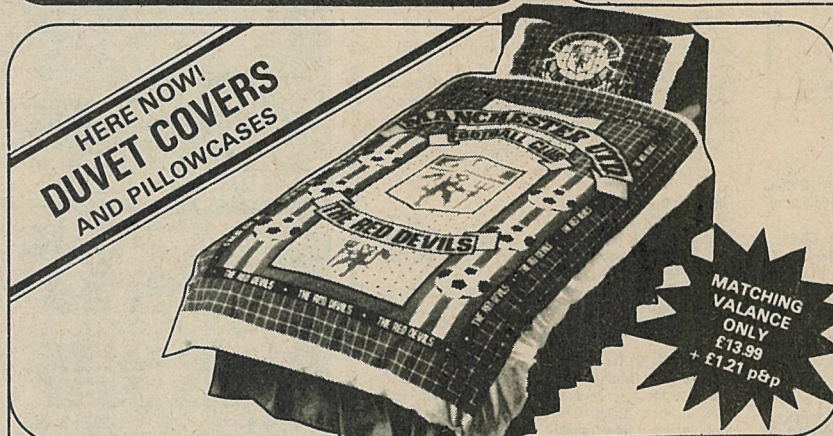
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Colin Stein of Rangers was Scotland's first £100,000 player. Here he battles with current Celtic manager Billy McNeill, a canny operator in the transfer market.

Charlie Nicholas and Davie Moyes on the substitutes' bench. Not one of these players cost more than a signing on fee.

Most Scottish clubs, plainly, cannot even think about spending £1 million on a player, and in turn, they are concentrating on their youngsters.

"I've got money to spend," says Rangers manager John Greig, "but I have no intention of paying out cash and buying players just for the sake of doing so."

"I don't believe in panic buying... that's not the answer in the long run. Transfers are things that have to be thought over carefully. The timing must be right."

"Rangers made a bid of around

SCOTS WON'T GO TRANSFER CRAZY

£300,000 for St Johnstone's Ally McCoist before he decided to join Sunderland.

"Had that deal gone through it would have been a record cash transaction between two Scottish clubs."

It was 12 years ago when Rangers first broke into the magical six figure bracket when they paid £100,000 for Colin Stein from Hibs, but while English clubs have now rocketed into the £1 million plus bracket the upward trend is hardly likely to continue in Scotland.

"I only pay my valuation of a players," says Aberdeen manager Alex Ferguson. "Nothing else comes into consideration."

"I will part with money I believe to be fair in exchange. It's all to do with the extent of the player's ability and NOT the extent of the Pittodrie bank balance. Surely, that's all that matters."

Sensible

The Scottish angle on the ever-soaring British transfer market is quite simple: They bid what they believe to be a sensible fee for a player and leave it at that.

Clubs are also actively encouraging youth and that can be plainly seen week in, week out when the multi-talented Celts display their powers, Ally Dawson, John MacDonald, Robert Russell sparkle for Rangers, Davie Dodds, Paul Sturrock, Davie Narey and Ralph Milne star for Dundee United, Alex McLeish and Willie Miller dominate for Aberdeen, Billy Stark and Lex Richardson do their business for St Mirren and so many, many other young players who cost only a few quid in signing-on fees perform in front of delighted fans.



S COTTISH soccer managers are aghast at the transfer goings-on among their counterparts in England and refuse point blank to be sucked into any financially ruinous whirlpool.

"Manchester City must have an awful lot of cash," says one boss. "It seems they want to buy every player in the English First Division as well as several from the Premier and a few from America!"

Celtic manager Billy McNeill says: "I wouldn't even think of competing with the likes of Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, Manchester United or Manchester City when it comes to splashing out £1 million on a player."

"We prefer to bring youngsters through the reserves. It pays better dividends in the long run."

Scottish bosses blink in astonishment when they hear about players lasting only a month after being bought for a sizeable fee as in the case of Asa Hartford, who lasted four weeks at Nottingham Forest before joining Everton for £100,000 less than the £400,000 Brian Clough paid for him from Manchester City.

How can he be worth £400,000 in

August and £300,000 in September?" asks one manager. "I remember when you could get a good player for £100,000..."

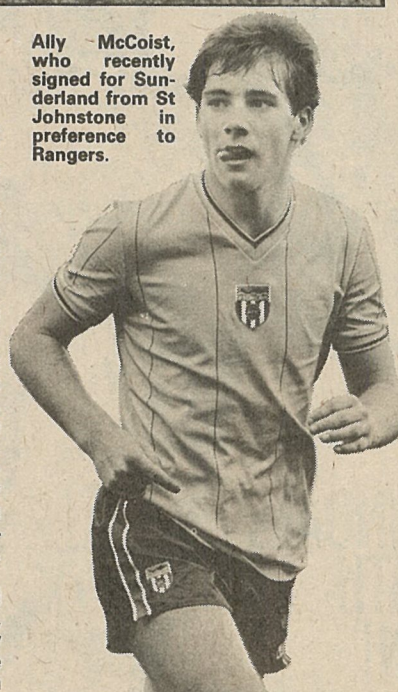
Fees of almost £2 million are being mentioned for some fairly inexperienced players and money like that could buy CLUBS in Scotland never mind players!

In the great race to get rid of cash and drive bank managers to suicide it would appear that English clubs are forgetting about their own lifeline... the reserves.

Take a look at European Cup holders Liverpool, for instance. They lost 2-0 to Ipswich at Portman Road recently, but how many of the 12 players—Craig Johnston came on for Terry McDermott—were home grown? Only two... Sammy Lee and Phil Thompson!

Celtic, on the other hand, played Morton that day with Pat Bonner, Danny McGrain, Mark Reid, Roy Aitken, Tommy Burns and George McCluskey in the line-up with

Ally McCoist, who recently signed for Sunderland from St Johnstone in preference to Rangers.



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you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT! All letters must be exclusive

to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Mark Wheaton of Biddenden in Kent, who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

NICE ONE, BRIAN

I MUST congratulate Brian Moore and The Big Match for not showing a nasty incident on a programme.

During the game between Q.P.R. and Crystal Palace, Rangers' keeper John Burridge was punched in the neck by a so called "fan" who ran on to the field.

ITV had film of the incident but Brian Moore said they did not want to highlight this. Therefore this allowed more time for highlights of the other games.

No doubt if it had been Jimmy Hill he would have replayed the incident and gone into lectures about behaviour of supporters etc, and we'd have lost some good football action or news.

And just imagine — the match screened that night was Liverpool v Aston Villa, a game which was a credit to British football, and if we'd have had to miss any of that it would have been tragic.

Don't think I'm against these idiots being shown up, as I believe we deserve to know what goes on, but at the price of a TV licence let's see the action — it's what the game of British football is all about!

● Full marks to Brian Moore, who handled the situation perfectly. It wasn't censorship, just plain common sense.

ENGLAND — the debate goes on



Thoresen celebrates after scoring Norway's World Cup winner against England.

porters all over the world were given a break.

PHILIP BEATTIE,
MALTA.

● Be optimistic — things can surely only improve . . . ?

Give the fans a break

PERMIT me to express my disgust over England's recent 2-1 humiliation at the hands of Norwegian part-timers.

It is a real disgrace, and everybody concerned, from Ron Greenwood to the players, should be ashamed of themselves.

Here in Malta, where England has a large following, many could not simply believe the news.

It is being said that today's international are more for money than their country's prestige.

Whatever the causes of England's setbacks, it is evident that drastic changes will have to be made at any cost.

The thought of England not qualifying for three successive World Cup competitions is ridiculous. With so many talented footballers playing in the best League in the world, producing great clubs capable of overcoming any European opposition, one wonders why England still has not produced a good, if not a great national team recently.

It's high time that true England sup-



Clough's the man

'RELY on England's old brigade' said Phil Thompson. 'England WILL qualify for Spain' Ray Wilkins assured us.

Those two sentences are meaningless as Norway made us the laughing stock of World Cup football in Oslo.

I tuned in my faithful television to the English transmitter and settled down, even with a terrible picture, to watch my home country.

Now I wish I had not, seeing as the English performance was worse than my TV picture.

How the hell do England qualify for a World Cup Finals?

Ron Greenwood should now resign; he has done his best, no doubt we need a tougher manager.

A certain Brian Clough is what we need. He is the best man for the job and

he can lead us to the 1986 World Cup Finals.

KIRK TAYLOR,
BRIDGEND.

● I'm sure Cloughie and the F.A. would get along just fine together!

Norwegians 'a disgrace'

THE Norwegian team who played England were a disgrace to football. They hacked and kicked for the whole 90 minutes. Even though it was the England players who were tripped and kicked the most, it was the Norwegians who went down the most.

If I'd been the referee I would have sent-off at least two or three of the Norway team.

MARTIN ANDERSON,
SUNDERLAND.

● England may have scraped a draw then.

Another 20 years . . .

ENGLAND's latest disastrous defeat, this time at the hands of no hopes Norway, came as no surprise to me.

England are living in the past, their Press forever reminding us of when England beat the World's best.

The English team of 1966 did have team spirit, but apart from half a dozen matches since then the English attitude has been "we're England — we'll beat the blighters blind."

If England don't start playing with guts and conviction it will be another 20 years before they come through in a World Cup qualifying group and next time out they aren't likely to find themselves in such a mediocre group.

ALAN ENGLISH,
LIMERICK.

● England would argue they're in a mediocre group!

Learn, England

I HAVE been a serious follower of English football for 20 to 25 years and I am sorry to see England lose an international game such as the one in Norway.

But how can the F.A. still allow a full League programme to take place the Saturday before the international game?

This is a great pity, as I think that the England team is a MUST in every World Cup.

From an ex-footballer with Morton, Newcastle United and Blackburn from 1965 to 1974.

BEN ARENTOFT,
DENMARK.

● In England club football comes before international soccer. England have the best clubs in Europe, but a poor national side.

Arsenal must buy

I HAVE been an ardent Arsenal fan for a few years and I am very surprised, nay more disappointed, that only one world-class player has been purchased to replace the likes of Liam Brady and Frank Stapleton, he, of course, being the Welsh international Peter Nicholas.

With money in the kitty, Arsenal must buy to stay alive. It is obvious no youth policy can replace these stars, which clearly the management are trying to do.

How can Arsenal expect to see crowded terraces, week in week out, if the high quality players demanded by the supporters are being seen less and less?

S. C. MITCHELL,
ABBOTS LEIGH.

● I think Brady and Stapleton are irreplaceable, even with Arsenal's financial resources.

England's usual form

BEFORE England's summer tour to Hungary and Switzerland the critics demanded three points for England to have a chance.

However, when the team returned with only two points the Press went wild over the defeat of Hungary in the Nep Stadium, conveniently forgetting the "Swiss Miss".

Alas, after England's shock defeat in Norway it is almost certain that they won't be there in Spain.

Meanwhile up in Scotland they have been quietly securing their place in the Finals, a fact that has gone unnoticed in England.

Ian St. John summed up what I am trying to say.

When asked what he thought of England's disastrous result in Norway he answered: "Och aye, well, that's just England playing to their usual form."

"TRUE BLUE",
GLASGOW.

● Scots seem to read a different English Press to the one I read. And still have an inferiority complex that is as unnecessary as criticising the English soccer team, because the English Press have been doing that very nicely, thank you.

Different Stapleton

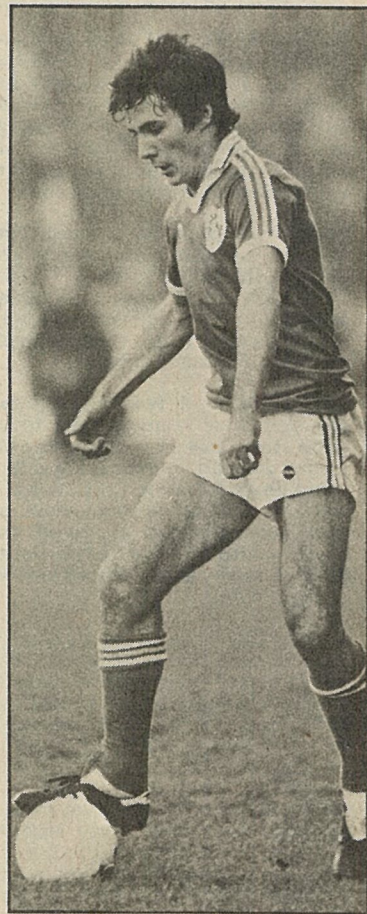
SOME months ago, I wrote to you to criticise Frank Stapleton's contribution to the Irish team.

Now, I feel I must congratulate Frank on a superb display against the Dutch. Not only did he score a magnificent equalising goal, but he also ran his heart out in a most unselfish manner.

I'm sure I speak for all Irish fans when I say "well done Frank."

PATRICK CLEARY,
CLONMEL.

● No player ever became good or bad after one game. Frank (below) has been a very good player for a long time.



ASK THE EXPERT IS ON
PAGE 29 THIS WEEK

As Wednesday and United push for promotion we brought managers Jack Charlton and Ian Porterfield together for an exclusive Crosstalk

**EVERA
Top of 1**



Wednesday newcomer Gary Megson heads home in the 3-0 win at Luton to put a smile on the face of manager Jack Charlton (left).

SIZZLING SHEFFIELD

PORTERFIELD: You know this fellow here gave me the opportunity to go into management at Rotherham, and having captained and coached Sheffield Wednesday under him you can say I am one of his proteges. If I need any advice or help I need only telephone him.

CHARLTON: What he means is that he asks for advice and then says what he thinks! He's got very positive ideas about how the game should be played and when we talk I can generally tell that he has made up his mind anyway.

PORTERFIELD: I was pleased to see that your team got off to a good start, Jack. I know you've got a strong squad, but some big sides came down from the First Division last season and my own view is that your Division is going to develop into a close battle right through to the end between seven or eight clubs.

CHARLTON: You could be right, but we intend changing the way we play. Despite what a lot of people think, we adopted a very positive attitude away from home last season. We went out and played everybody. We pushed up on everybody, tried to win balls in their half. In doing that we probably had the worst away record that I've ever had as a manager! This year it's going to be a bit different. We might just give a little bit of ground to the people in our half of the field and not push them as far as we have done in the past.



As you have seen already we have the pace among our players to exploit any areas we can create behind our opponents.

PORTERFIELD: That's interesting. Our problem, as I see it, is more psychological. We simply must adjust our players to the Fourth Division and, fortunately, from the games to date, our players seemed to have learned the message quickly. If you look back you will see that over the last year or two United have scored a lot of goals but conceded plenty too. In fact they scored more last season than Rotherham, who won the Championship while United were relegated.

CHARLTON: That accounts for you

stiffening your squad with a new goalkeeper and John McAlle from Wolves I suppose...

PORTERFIELD: Yes, my new 'keeper, Keith Waugh from Peterborough, is someone I've watched a number of times. I've always been an admirer of him... technically and potentially he's one of the best in the country. He's

only 24 and wants to be the best 'keeper around and play for Sheffield United, which is important. I was, of course, delighted to sign John McAlle who will set the right authority and discipline in the back four. Like you I have signed three players... the other one being Paul Richardson who, like McAlle, is 31 and very experienced. Paul had promotion with Stoke and Forest and is a fine midfield playmaker. There are other good players in the club, but I think that these three worthwhile signings will motivate and get the best out of the others.

CHARLTON: I signed Jim Holton from Coventry for basically the same reason. I believe that once he is completely fit and aware of the way we want to play he will be good for us for a year or two. Last year our inexperience at the back was a failing we had to put right. Jeff Johnson, as you know, has gone to Newport and I have replaced him with Gary Megson from Everton. Gary has more flair in his game and will give us that bit more dimension. My other signing, Gary Bannister, from Coventry, will give us the pace we need on the left hand side. He is tremendously skilful and exciting to watch... just what our supporters like.

PORTERFIELD: Yes our supporters are alike in that respect. We are both fortunate in the way the crowds turn out in the city... I didn't realise the United fans were so good until I came here.

CHARLTON: Let's hope we can give them something to celebrate next May!

United manager Ian Porterfield (left) is looking to take his team back into the Third Division. Striker Steve Neville is foiled by York 'keeper Eddie Blackburn in the League Cup clash (below).



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HIBERNIAN



WHILE manager Bertie Auld struts and swaggers off the field, his Hibs team stutters and staggers on the field. Auld, one of Scottish soccer's extroverts, is obviously used to the finer things of football life.

It was Auld, along with Bobby Murdoch, now guiding Middlesbrough, who swept Celtic to their historic European Cup victory over Inter Milan in 1967 to add yet another medal to his personal pyramid of treasures. Auld enjoys the special atmosphere of the big occasion, he thrives in the huge atmospheres, he loves a challenge.

And he certainly has a gigantic one on his hands at the moment.

Hibs, once the princes of Scottish soccer in the 50's with a Famous Five forward line that consisted of the lavishly talented Gordon Smith, Eddie Turnbull, Lawrie Reilly, Bobby Johnstone and Willie Ormond, are in dire need of the kiss of life as their golden gloss becomes more and more tarnished, as the memories of greatness begin to fade.

They are in the Premier Division at the moment, but whether they are still there at the end of the season is a matter of great conjecture.

With restricted financial resources, Auld hasn't been able to follow in the cheque books of the likes of John Bond or Ron Atkinson, but he has tried to rebuild a squad that is once again likely to put a smile on the faces of the long suffering Edinburgh fans.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Ally Donaldson (£5,000 from Dundee), Alan Sneddon (£60,000 from Celtic), Erich Schaeder (£12,000 from Dundee), Billy McLaren (£15,000 from Morton), Bobby Flavell (£25,000 from Sweden), and Gary Murray (£35,000 from Montrose) have all been added to the Easter Road wage bill in the last year. They have joined the 'Golden Oldies' such as the experienced Ally MacLeod, who was recently put up for sale, Ralph Callaghan, Arthur Duncan and Jackie McNamara.

"I want to see young players coming up through the ranks," says Auld. "That gives the club a solid foundation and a very definite future."

"Hibs have actively encouraged the youths in Edinburgh and there will always be a place at Easter Road for any good young player who has this club's interests at heart."

Oddly, Hibs, once one of the great nurseries for young talent in Scotland by unearthing the likes of Joe Baker, Peter Cormack, Pat Stanton, Peter Marinello, Alex Cropley, John Brownlie, John Blackley and so many more, have just come to a full stop in the so-vital area in recent times.

Gordon Rae, Willie Murray and outstand-

ing centre-back prospect Craig Paterson are the only young players currently involved in the first team picture who actually came through the ranks. That, obviously, is not good enough.

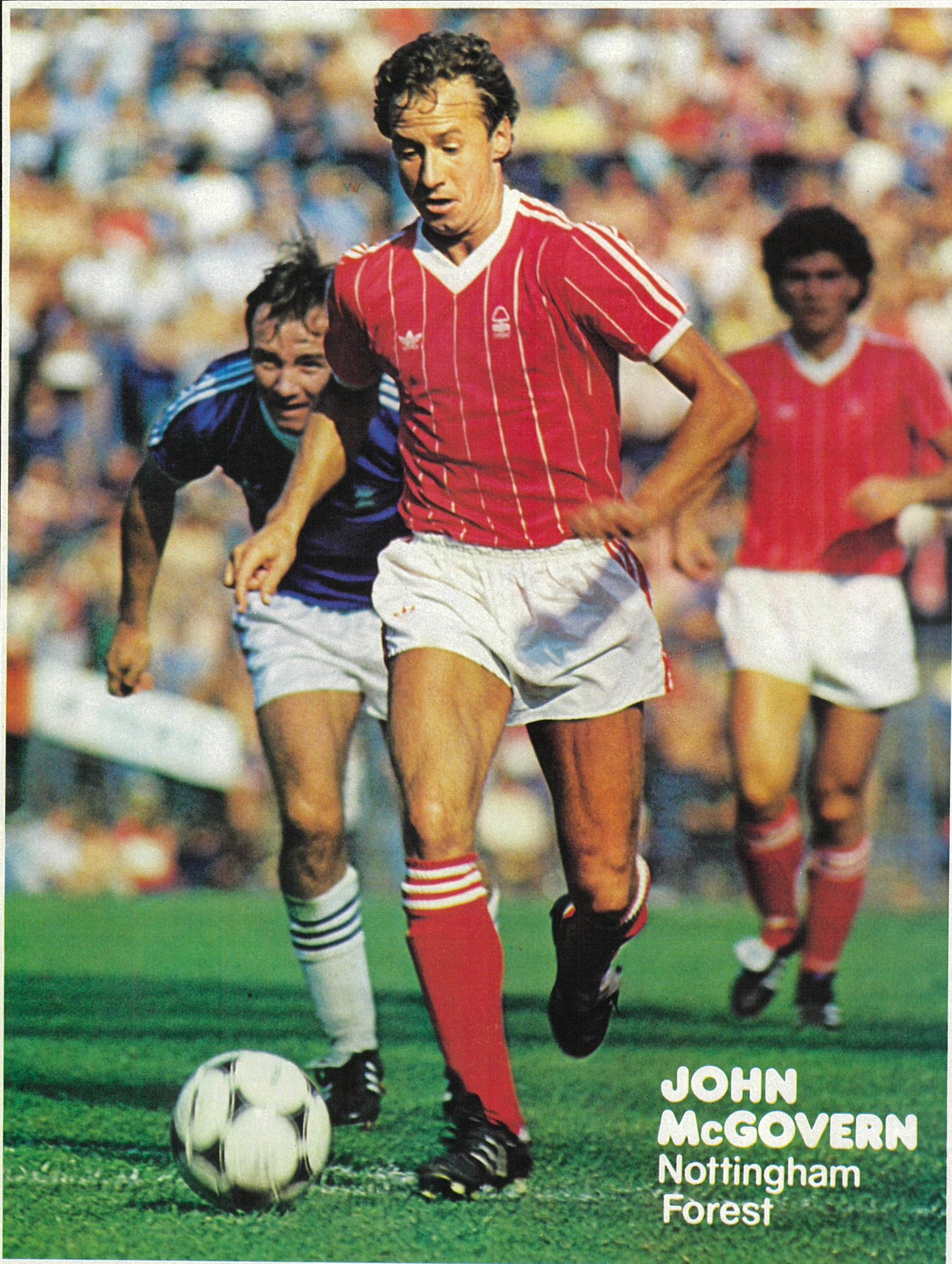
Hibs simply cannot afford to become just another patchwork side, mending holes as they appear and struggling desperately to get through one season without an eye to the future.

A team of their pedigree is absolutely crucial to Scottish soccer. They were dying with their boots on before Bertie Auld took over. Now he wants to remodel and reshape their future.

They are a club with a tradition for excitement and entertainment. Unfortunately, they have failed to live up to those traditions in recent years.



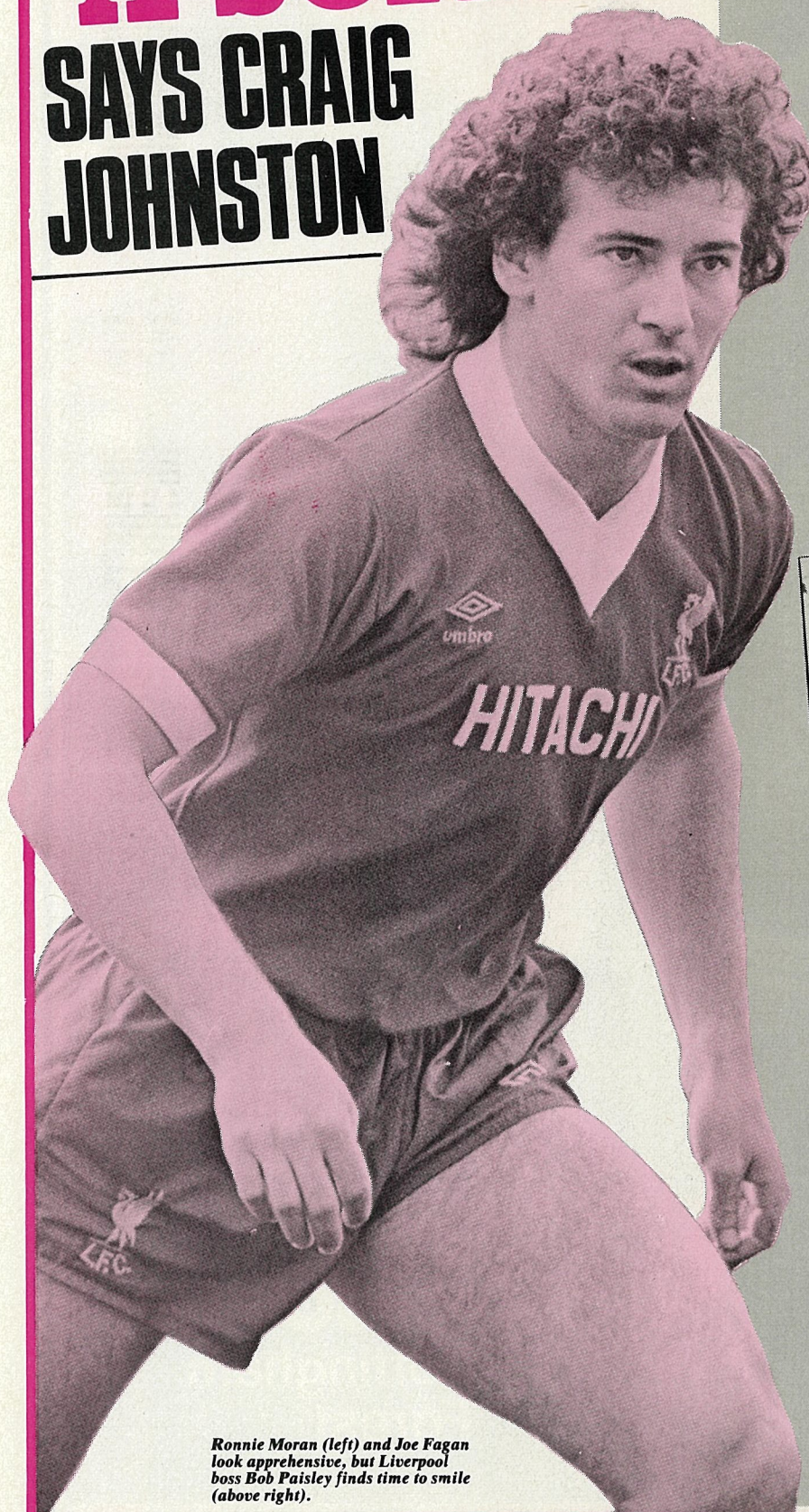
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 League Cup Winners 1973.



**JOHN
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Nottingham
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'PAISLEY'S A JOKER'

SAYS CRAIG JOHNSTON



Ronnie Moran (left) and Joe Fagan look apprehensive, but Liverpool boss Bob Paisley finds time to smile (above right).

CRAIG Johnston, signed by Liverpool from Middlesbrough at the end of last season to strengthen the Anfield squad, is itching to make his mark for the Merseysiders. But the big question is — which position will he fill?

Not an automatic choice for the first team, Craig himself has no doubts about which is his best spot in the line-up. He considers himself a midfielder, but is only concerned about doing his best in any role allocated to him.

'Willing'

He says: "I spent two and a half years learning how to play in midfield before I joined Liverpool, and this is the position I feel most at home in. But I'm willing to turn out anywhere I'm asked."

For Johnston, apart from the question of where he will slot in for the Anfield club, there has been a change in his career since he left the North-East which he finds stimulating.

"This is a completely different world to the one I was accustomed to at Middles-

brough. With Liverpool, everyone in the club, no matter what his capacity, has been helpful and encouraging to me.

"There is an atmosphere full of purpose in the corridors, and I've really appreciated being told by all the first team players that if I need help or assistance in any way I've only to ask."

"One of the biggest surprises to me has been the training programme. Instead of training being a bit of a chore, Ronnie Moran and Joe Fagan make it entertaining, and when our manager Bob Paisley is there the jokes are flying around — when I get up in the morning I can hardly wait to get to the ground."

Craig's enthusiasm for playing, as well as training, has prompted him to ask for Central League football rather than be inactive, and by early September he had

sampled both reserve and first-team soccer with Liverpool.

He says: "I've asked to be selected for the reserves to give me match practice, as I felt the pace when I went on as sub in our First Division game against Arsenal, and am determined to stay at peak fitness."

"I've been used as an out-and-out striker, and so far haven't been satisfied with my form."

But if Johnston is not enjoying regular first team status at Anfield at present, he is aware that other players also took time to adjust with Liverpool.

"If I have any doubts about my future here, I reassure myself by thinking that players such as Ray Kennedy and Terry McDermott took time before establishing themselves, and this helps to perk me up."

Johnston, born in South Africa of British stock but brought up in Australia, paid his own fare to England six years ago after Middlesbrough replied to his written request to them for a trial.

Craig was 15 at that time, Jack Charlton was his first manager, and Johnston later became Boro's youngest ever F.A. Cup player at



the age of 17.

Recalling those days on Teesside, Johnston says: "There were good and bad spells. The Middlesbrough fans were great with their support, for me and the other players — not even the Liverpool Kop makes more noise."

"But it was very depressing for me when I was laid up with groin injuries for months, and I also missed my parents, who I didn't see for two years."

Certainly, Craig won individual success with the Boro and is anxious to repeat the performance at Anfield, no matter which position he occupies — earlier this season, manager Paisley intimated that he could be chosen for midfield or up front.

And Johnston sums up, "My ambition is simply to wear a Liverpool jersey."

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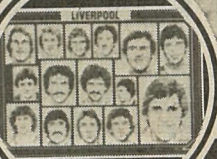
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CHILEAN international striker Sandrino Castec is starting legal proceedings against Iquique defender Wilfredo Arriaza following an incident during the Iquique — Universidad de Chile match.

Castec is claiming damages for the broken ear-drum he sustained when Arriaza floored him with a right hook in an off-the-ball clash.

Should be an interesting er... hearing.

Unwanted refs

IN SPAIN, clubs are allowed to draw up a black list every season of referees they don't wish to handle their matches during the campaign.

It's interesting to note that the two names who figure most prominently among the blacked officials are none other than two of Spain's international referees, Franco Martinez and Emilio Guruceta, both of whom are likely to officiate during next summer's World Cup Finals.

The most picturesque 'blackening' of this season is Valencia's aversion to newly promoted referee Ramon Esquerdo — a man who's never handled a Valencia game!

The club justify their attitude by pointing back four seasons, when Esquerdo officiated (rather badly, they feel) at a Cup game involving their nursery side Mestalla!

SWEDISH Champions and League leaders Öster were beaten 2-1 at home by Malmö FF, ending a run of 27 months without a home defeat.

PERU QUALIFY- and 'Chumpi' retires again

OVER 30,000 fans mobbed the Peruvian national team at Lima airport when they returned from their historic World Cup triumph in Montevideo, where goals from La Rosa and Uribe had helped Peru beat the Uruguayans 2-1 and notch one of the most spectacular upsets in recent years.

It took the team almost four hours to make their way out of the airport and get to the Presidential Palace for a celebration dinner with Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde.

The Peruvians then clinched their place in the World Cup Finals (Scotland beware!) when they drew 0-0 with favourites Uruguay in Lima.

After the game captain Hector Chumpitaz — whose age is given as 37, but it's said he's 40 — retired for what I believe is the seventh time.

The members of the Peruvian national team have received a cash

bonus of £3,000 a man, plus a car for their triumph.

Team manager Tim (a Brazilian — that's how he's known) has been paid a bonus of £60,000 for his part in the proceedings.

Meanwhile, the Peruvian authorities are preparing a crash programme of 25 international matches, including two tours, in a bid to improve the national team's chances in next year's World Cup Finals.

Peruvian midfielder José Velásquez had to obtain special permission to leave the country for Peru's World Cup qualifiers against Colombia and Uruguay. Apparently Velásquez had left his wife, and she promptly slapped in a legal demand for maintenance money.

While legal proceedings were under way, the player was banned from leaving the country, and the F.A. had to conduct urgent negotiations with the government to secure his 'release'.



Jose Velasquez (white strip) helps Peru to their 2-1 victory in Uruguay.

Rich Rexach

HOW about this for a testimonial?

Barcelona's long-serving winger Carlos Rexach retired at the end of last season, and the Spanish club arranged to play his testimonial against the Argentine team while they were on tour.

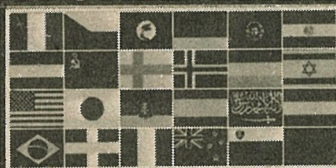
The match was watched by a capacity crowd of 93,000 which meant Rexach would receive the princely sum of... wait for it... £140,000! Not bad, eh?

URUGUAY'S international striker Waldemar Corino has joined Deportivo Cali in Colombia, but only on loan.

The hero of Uruguay's Copa de Oro triumph has left Nacional for a mere £24,000 in cash.

But if the Colombian club wish to retain the 29-year-old striker next term, they'll have to pay a fee of £175,000.

WORLD WIDE



Compiled by CHRIS DAVIES

HAMBURGER SV players have finally settled on a bonus of £375 per League point gained after demanding £500 a point. This means that for a League win, at home or away, each player will collect £750. But the players did win one concession from business manager Gunter Netzer. For friendly wins, the bonus goes up to £250 a game, double last season's figure.

News flashes

● As Argentina limbers up for the National Championship, it's interesting to reflect that in the first part of their season, the Metropolitan Championship, no fewer than 185 players were sent-off and 131 penalties were awarded — of which 28 were missed.

● On the opening of the season in Belgium the eight First Division games attracted a total of only 102,000 spectators for an average of 12,750 per game, but they saw on average 3.25 goals at each match. The hero of the day was 21-year-old Alex Czerniatinski, who scored the goal that gave Royal Antwerp a 1-1 draw away to Champions Anderlecht.

● Two of Juventus' international stars, Marco Tardelli and Claudio Gentile (right), declined to sign new contracts until the day before their first official game of the season in the F.A. Cup. They successfully held out for equal pay terms with their best paid colleagues, Dino Zoff and Roberto Bettega, and are now guaranteed at least £45,000 basic, plus, of course, bonuses which are very big in Italy.

● The Chilean authorities have demanded compensation from FIFA following the transmission on a Chilean TV channel of the World Cup qualifier between Peru and Uruguay. The game coincided with Chilean League matches, and the clubs are irate because many fans chose to stay at home.

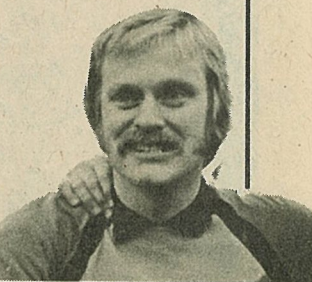


● Hans-Ulrich Grapenthin, international goalkeeper of FC Carl Zeiss Jena, has been voted East Germany's Footballer of the year for 1980-81... as he was last year.

● Average attendances at First Division games in Bulgaria rose slightly in 1980-81 compared to the previous season from 10,707 to 11,822 per game.

● After three rounds of League matches in Holland, the biggest gates have been 35,000 for the Ajax-Feyenoord clash (1-1) and the visit of Champions AZ'67 to Eindhoven (28,000) where they beat PSV by 4-2. The top scorer is AZ's centre-forward Kees Kist with five goals from three games.

● With Swedish international goalkeeper Ronnie Hellstrom (below) out for at least two months, what FC Kaiserslautern feared most has happened in their fourth Bundesliga match. Reserve goalkeeper Armin Reichel was taken off injured after only four minutes against VfB Stuttgart and they had to play with 19-year-old amateur 'keeper Thomas Henrichs. But they need not have worried, for the boy played very well as they beat a much fancied VfB 3-2.



Claudio a hit

SUNDERLAND fans will remember Claudio Marangoni, the Argentine midfielder who never really settled at Roker.

Well, it's interesting to note that in the imaginary team composed of the best players in the Argentine League, Marangoni (stripes, right) was voted among the top three midfielders.

But, despite his successful campaign with Huracan, he's on the move again to Spanish side Malaga.

MOSCOW fans are coming back to the game it seems after some years of disinterest. For Spartak Moscow's 3-1 win over Dynamo Tbilisi there was a crowd of 81,000 at the Lenin Stadium.



HORST BUHTZ, 54-year-old former manager-coach of Bayer Uerdingen in West Germany, has been approached by the Chinese, who want him to lead them in the rest of their bid to qualify for the World Cup — and in Spain if they get there.

POPULAR DUTCHMEN

FOR the current season in Belgium the First Division clubs have engaged a total of 88 foreigners and, including Belgians, this gives them players from 20 countries with their top class clubs.

Most popular are Dutchmen . . . 24; and 15 West Germans, but there are also 20 players from four countries in Eastern Europe.

They even have players from Luxembourg, Norway, Scotland, England; and AA Ghent have Kiyika Tokodifiansiuka, who is from Zaire.

Lucky escape for Fillol

ARGENTINE international goalkeeper 'Pato' Fillol (right) was lucky to escape with minor injuries after being involved in a head-on collision with another car at a junction near his home in Buenos Aires.

Fillol's wife was taken to hospital for observation after receiving a heavy blow on the head.



Flamengo fiasco

BRAZILIAN club Flamengo qualified for the Semi-Final stage of the Copa Libertadores in sensational fashion, after tying on points with fellow Brazilians Atlético Mineiro and needing a play-off to decide who went through.

The match was played (if that's the right expression) before a crowd of 80,000 in the Goias stadium with the controversial José Roberto Wright as referee.

The fireworks soon started, with the referee showing Atlético's Toninho Cerezo the yellow card after only six minutes, and following it up with cards for team-mates Palhinha and Vaguinho.

Then Atlético's star international striker Reinaldo was sent-off for what critics described as 'a normal foul'.

The Atlético players immediately started a mass protest, and the referee responded by showing red cards to Eder, Palhinha, Chicão and Osmar — leaving the side with only six players.

The game was halted for 20 minutes before order was restored, and referee

Wright (in spite of FIFA regulations) insisted that Atlético played on five men short.

But when goalkeeper Joao Leite had to be stretchered off with concussion, the referee finally decided to abandon the game.

Flamengo have been declared winners of the match, but the controversy is likely to blaze for a good few months yet.

BAYER 04 Leverkusen, who play in the West German Bundesliga, have signed political refugee Rudolf Wojtowicz on a two-year contract. An international midfielder player, and now 25-years-old, Wojtowicz defected while touring West Germany with his club, 1980 Polish Champions, Szombierki (Bytom) and it is expected that the Polish F.A. will get him suspended by FIFA for one year.

YOU ARE THE REF

compiled by Keith Hackett



1 Having made a save the goalkeeper intentionally lies on the ball longer than necessary. Should you: (a) allow play to continue, (b) award an indirect free-kick and caution the goalkeeper or (c) award a penalty?

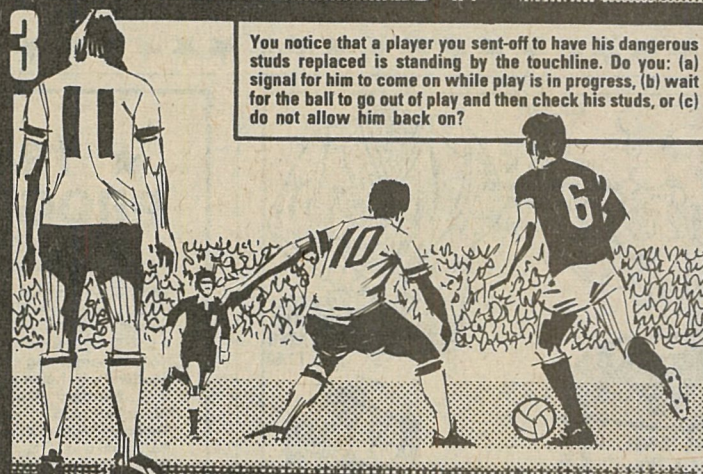


2 At a free kick, a defender stands at the side of the ball, and arranges his defensive wall. Should you: (a) allow this, (b) caution the player or (c) ask the player to move away?



3

You notice that a player you sent-off to have his dangerous studs replaced is standing by the touchline. Do you: (a) signal for him to come on while play is in progress, (b) wait for the ball to go out of play and then check his studs, or (c) do not allow him back on?



MATCH POINT

● An interesting situation arose in a recent charity game I was refereeing involving two former Sheffield Wednesday players. A penalty had been awarded, but instead of shooting for goal, Albert Broadbent touched the ball forward for David Ford to run on to and shoot home. This is something we often talk about, but in 20 years as a referee it was the first time it had happened in a game I was in charge of. I must admit I was a bit stumped at first, but after thinking it over I realised that as long as the ball had been played forward and the second player was outside the penalty-area when it was first kicked, there was no infringement. In this case however, David Ford had encroached and so I ordered the kick to be retaken.

ANSWERS

1. B. Referees must ensure that the game does not have delays of this nature. 2. B. I would in the first instance have a quiet word with the player, that rings and chains can also be dangerous and that the referee can ask for them to be removed or made safe. 3. B. Referees must check players who have been sent-off because of dangerous equipment. Remember dangerous equipment can also be dangerous and that the referee can ask for them to be removed or made safe.

Star spangled XI

THREE former Football League stars were chosen in the North American Soccer League's 1981 All-star XI. The team:



Goalkeeper, Jan van Beveren, Ft. Lauderdale. Defenders Wim Rijsbergen, New York, Frantz Mathieu, Chicago, Peter Nogly, Edmonton, John Gorman (pictured), Tampa Bay. Midfielders Teofilio Cubillas, Ft. Lauderdale, Vladislav Bogicevic, New York, Arno Steffenhagen, Chicago. Forwards, Giorgio Chinaglia, New York, Brian Kidd, Atlanta, Gordon Hill, Montreal.

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



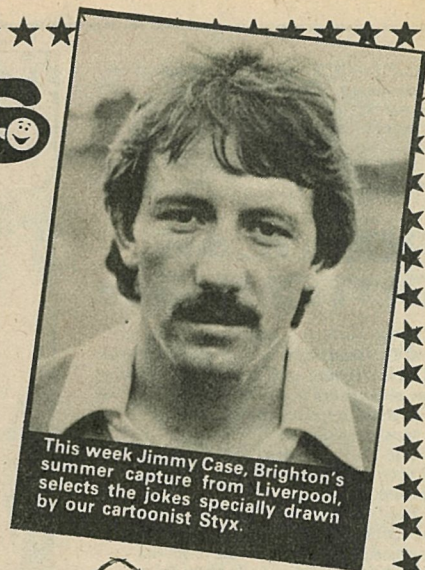
"Same old faithful compliments — my mum and dad, your Auntie Mable, the groundsman's granny and the boss's bank manager..."



"I worked it out... if we practise shooting at the goal over there..."



"When I fling the gates open, don't stampee."



This week Jimmy Case, Brighton's summer capture from Liverpool, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Can't you demand a transfer without thumping your fist on my desk?"

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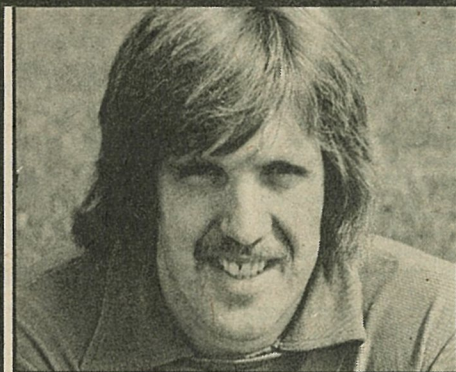
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SHOOT/SUKAN Sports Competition



In our Sukan competition in August 22 issue, readers were invited to identify three pictured goalkeepers. The correct answers were:

1 — Paul Cooper; 2 — Sepp Maier; 3 — Dai Davies.

Having considered all entries the judges chose that submitted by Michael Newman, of Cheltenham, as being the nearest correct entry with age taken into account. Michael wins a day out at the West Ham training ground where he will receive coaching from their goalkeeper, Phil Parkes (above). The prize also includes a pair of Sukan Reusch 124 'keeper's gloves.

The ten next best entries win their senders a pair of Sukan Reusch 124 'keeper's gloves, these are:

Robert Cronick, Cardiff; Timothy Foster, Hips-well; Peter Griffiths, Evesham; Fiona Hill, Morden; David Mitchell, Orpington; Colin Murray, Galloway; Gary Phillips, Urmberleigh; Iain Rankin, Mother-well; David Savill, Newark; Philip Webb, Portsmouth.

BARNES' ARRIVAL BOOSTS GRAHAM

THE near-million pound signing of Peter Barnes has already made quite an impact at Leeds — but in an unexpected way.

Barnes' arrival was seen by many as the beginning of the end for another international winger at Elland Road — Scotsman Arthur Graham.

But the reverse has happened. Graham has totally rediscovered the scoring touch which deserted him for much of last season — and he puts the upsurge in form down to the increased competition for places.

"Fortunately Peter likes to switch wings at various times during a match, and that gives me the opportunity to do the same, which I like, though I do prefer playing on the left. The important thing is that Allan Clarke is encouraging both Peter and myself to attack down the flanks and have a go at the full-backs."

Leeds are really trying to wing their way to success this season, because in addition to Graham and Barnes they also have Carl Harris and Eddie Gray in the side.

United's management team of Clarke and Martin Wilkinson are delighted with the way Graham in particular has responded to the challenge.

Clarke says: "Arthur deserves great credit for his attitude. In pre-season matches and in training he was one of our sharpest players, and he is playing as well now as he has ever done."

"He has a tremendous appetite for work, and the four goals he



scored in as many days against Everton and Wolves prove he is a good finisher."

Arthur himself must have begun to doubt that ability having gone nine months without a goal.

"With this new freedom to attack I'm hoping my output of goals will improve. I've never had the best of luck in front of goal, but it's great to be on the scoresheet so early in the season."

In fact that hat-trick against Wolves, the third he's struck in Leeds colours, meant that Arthur had matched last season's entire tally within the space of just four days — and there's a promise of many more to come.

"We made a terrible start to last season, and because of that we had to adopt a largely defensive attitude to matches — points became critical."

"But starting afresh we can play a more natural game and person-

Graham on target against Wolves (below). He puts the increase of goals down to the arrival of fellow winger Peter Barnes (left).

ally I'm delighted that the club signed such exciting and constructive players as Peter and Frankie Gray. They can only improve our side, and I'm looking forward to a much better season for the club."

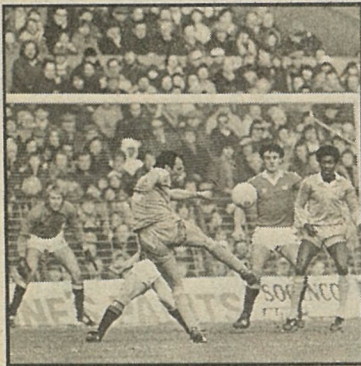
"I know some people thought that I would be the one to go when Peter arrived but I'm determined to prove I'm worth my place, and so far things have gone well for me. I've never felt I've played badly for the club, but at last I've got more freedom."

'Chance'

"It's ironic that I should be playing well just at the time that Scotland have left me out. Still, if I carry on like this I hope to get another chance to play for my country."

Jock Stein confirmed that when he said: "Arthur didn't play very well for us the last time I included him, but he has started this season impressively and if he keeps it up there's every chance he will come back into consideration."

Man. City v Man. Utd



LAST season City made up some lost ground in these derby games by dropping only one point, winning 1-0 at Maine Road (above), and drawing 2-2 at Old Trafford. To date this gives City 31 wins, United 37 wins and 34 games drawn.

City have won two League games in a row at home to United for the first time since the early 1950's when they created a club record by winning four consecutive home games against their local rivals.

Can they get one step nearer equalising that record on Saturday?

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday,
October 10th 1981

West Ham v Everton

EVERTON have quite a good record at Upton Park, having lost only three of their last 12 League visits, and only failing to find the net in two of those games.

Everton's biggest win at West Ham was 4-1 in August, 1968 when Jimmy Husband, Alan Ball, Joe Royle and Colin Harvey got their goals.

The Hammers haven't beaten Everton in any of their last eight League clashes, although they did, of course, succeed in knocking them out of the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals two seasons ago.

Coventry v A. Villa

FEBRUARY 6th, 1937 is still a red letter day in the story of Coventry's League meetings with their Midland rivals, for so far it marked their only victory over Villa.

This will be the League Champions' ninth League visit to Highfield Road where they have won five, drawn two and lost just that one game.

Last season this game was a disappointment as a spectacle but Villa did enough to deserve their 2-1 victory and complete their second League double in a row over Coventry (below).

This game could provide former Coventry midfielder star Andy Blair with his first return to Highfield Road since his summer signing for Villa.



Liverpool v Leeds

MANAGER Allan Clarke will be hoping for a change of fortune for Leeds United at Anfield, for only once in their last 20 League visits have they scored more than a single goal. That was in one of only two wins there during this spell — in January, 1972 — when Clarke himself set Leeds on the road to victory with the first of their two goals.

Both clashes between these two clubs last season ended in goalless draws.

M'Boro v Nottm. Forest

ONLY one goal has been scored in the last three First Division games between these two sides and Forest have been undefeated at Ayresome Park in all four visits since their return to the First Division in 1977.

The last time Middlesbrough secured a League win over Forest, either at home or away, was in December, 1973 when they were topping the Second Division and centre-half Stuart Boam got the only goal at Ayresome Park. However, it was only six weeks later that Forest hammered the Second Division leaders 5-1 at Nottingham.

Current form suggests that Boro could be struggling for a share of the points this time, although they would like to overshadow the return of former Ayresome favourite Mark Proctor to the scene of so many of his fine performances (see page 47).

QUIZ TIME

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Sheffield Wednesday winger Terry Curran (below, stripes) has played for Doncaster Rovers, Nottingham Forest, Bury (on loan), Derby County and Southampton during his League career.
2. Rochdale play their home Fourth Division games at Spotland.
3. Swansea midfield player John Mahoney is a Northern Ireland international player.
4. Huddersfield Town have won the First Division Championship on three occasions — in 1923-24, 1924-25 and 1925-26.
5. Norwich City were formed before Ipswich Town.



ON THE BALL ANSWERS:

ACROSS:— (3) Reel. (4) Vue. (6) Angle. (7) Slack. (10) Act. (14) Palmer. (15) Robinson. (17) McNaught. (18) Forfar. (19) Ode. (21) Sense. (23) Walsh. (24) Oat. (25) Spot.
DOWN:— (1) Break. (2) Leighton. (4) Via. (5) Sea. (8) Lampard. (9) Car. (11) Centres. (12) Arch. (13) Royal. (16) Phillips. (18) Fee. (20) Ewe. (21) Shots. (22) Nut.

NICKNAMES

Can you identify the following British clubs by their nicknames?

1. The Pars
2. The Blades
3. Peacocks
4. Red Devils
5. Villans
6. The Warriors
7. Spiders
8. The Shrimpers
9. Sky Blues
10. The Jags

PICTURE PUZZLE

Study this action photograph below, taken during a Southampton v. Everton game this season, and see if you can answer the following questions about the game and the two clubs.

1. Can you identify the Southampton youngster on the ball?
2. Name the two Everton players in close attendance.

3. Saints won 1-0, 2-0 or 3-0?

4. Lawrie McMenemy is Southampton's third, fourth or fifth manager since the War?

5. Is it true that Everton's most capped player with 39 of his 72 full England appearances is Southampton's Alan Ball?



WINNING GOALS

1. Did George Eastham, Peter Doherty or Jimmy Greenhoff score Stoke City's winning goal in their 2-1 victory against Chelsea in the 1972 League Cup Final at Wembley?
2. After beating several players, Ricky Villa scored Tottenham's winner against Manchester City in last season's F.A. Cup Final replay with a right or left footed shot?
3. The only goal of the 1979 European Cup Final was scored by Trevor Francis for Nottingham Forest against Malmo in the first or second-half?
4. Scotland beat England 1-0 in last season's British Championship at Wembley with a John Robertson penalty. Was John Wark, Paul Sturrock or Steve Archibald fouled for the spot kick?

DEFENDERS

1. Manchester City signed Kevin Bond from Seattle Sounders recently. The England B defender has been with two other League clubs. Can you name them?
2. Willie Garner plays in defence for which Scottish Premier Division club?
3. Did Pat Rice, Frank McLintock or Bob McNab captain Arsenal to their 1970-71 Football League Championship and F.A. Cup double?
4. Ipswich Town's Terry Butcher (left) has won one, two or three full England caps?
5. Aberdeen full-back Stuart Kennedy was signed from Forfar or Falkirk?

ANSWERS:

WINNING GOALS. 1. George Eastham. 2. Right. 3. First. 4. Archibald. 5. Bournemouth and DEFENDERS. 1. Bournemouth and Norwich City. 2. Celtic. 3. McLintock. 4. Two. 5. Falkirk. NICKNAMES. 1. Dundermine. 2. Sheffield United. 3. Leeds United. 4. Manchester United. 5. Aston Villa. 6. Stenhousemuir. 7. Queen's Park. 8. Southend. 9. Coventry. 10. Partick Thistle. TRUE OR FALSE? 1. True. 2. True. 3. False. 4. True. 5. False. PICTURE PUZZLE. 1. Steve Moran. 2. Mickey Walsh (centre) and Asa Hartford. 3. 1-0. 4. Fifth. 5. Yes.

BRIAN McDERMOTT-

Big enough to fill Stapleton's boots

ASK us to name the player who went into the new season with the most difficult job in football and we go, without hesitation, for Brian McDermott.

He is the lad given the awesome responsibility of taking over from Frank Stapleton at Arsenal.

Arsenal put their faith in McDermott after all their attempts to hold on to Stapleton failed and he moved on to Manchester United for £900,000.

That in itself would be a big enough job. But McDermott had to tackle it against background rumblings that Arsenal were trying to sign every big name striker in football.

Trevor Francis, Tony Woodcock and Garry Thompson were just three The Gunners went for, and by now they may well have got their man.

If they have it will be a bitter blow to McDermott — 20-year-old former England Youth international, who believes he can do a good job in the famous red and white shirt.

Modest

"I just know I have got the ability to make a success of it. All I ask is the chance to prove it," says the modest and likeable McDermott.

The presence of Stapleton and Alan Sunderland restricted McDermott to just 26 first team appearances before this season started. But he managed five goals in those.

He has done well every time he has been called upon and now yearns for the chance of a long term run in the side.

But McDermott makes it clear anyone expecting him to be a carbon copy of Stapleton is asking far too much.

There's no way he could take on the 'target man' role Stapleton played to perfection. McDermott is three inches shorter and almost three stone lighter for a start!

"Physical attributes are vital for the role Frank had. You have to be able to look after yourself and be difficult to knock off the ball," he explains.

"I'm not built that way. I'm far too light to be stuck down the middle and left to battle it out and the Arsenal coaching staff do not expect that of me.

"As a result we had to have a slight change of style for our opening matches, with myself playing a bit wider than Frank used to and

coming in on things.

"There's no doubt in my mind that it can work and as I said earlier I'm sure I can provide the answers Arsenal are looking for.

"I've achieved a lifetime ambition by getting into the Arsenal side. It's an opportunity I don't intend to waste and if I do fail it won't be for want of trying."

Brian was recently dropped in favour of new boy John Hawley, but the former Sunderland striker also failed to produce the goods in a goalless draw with Manchester United at Highbury.

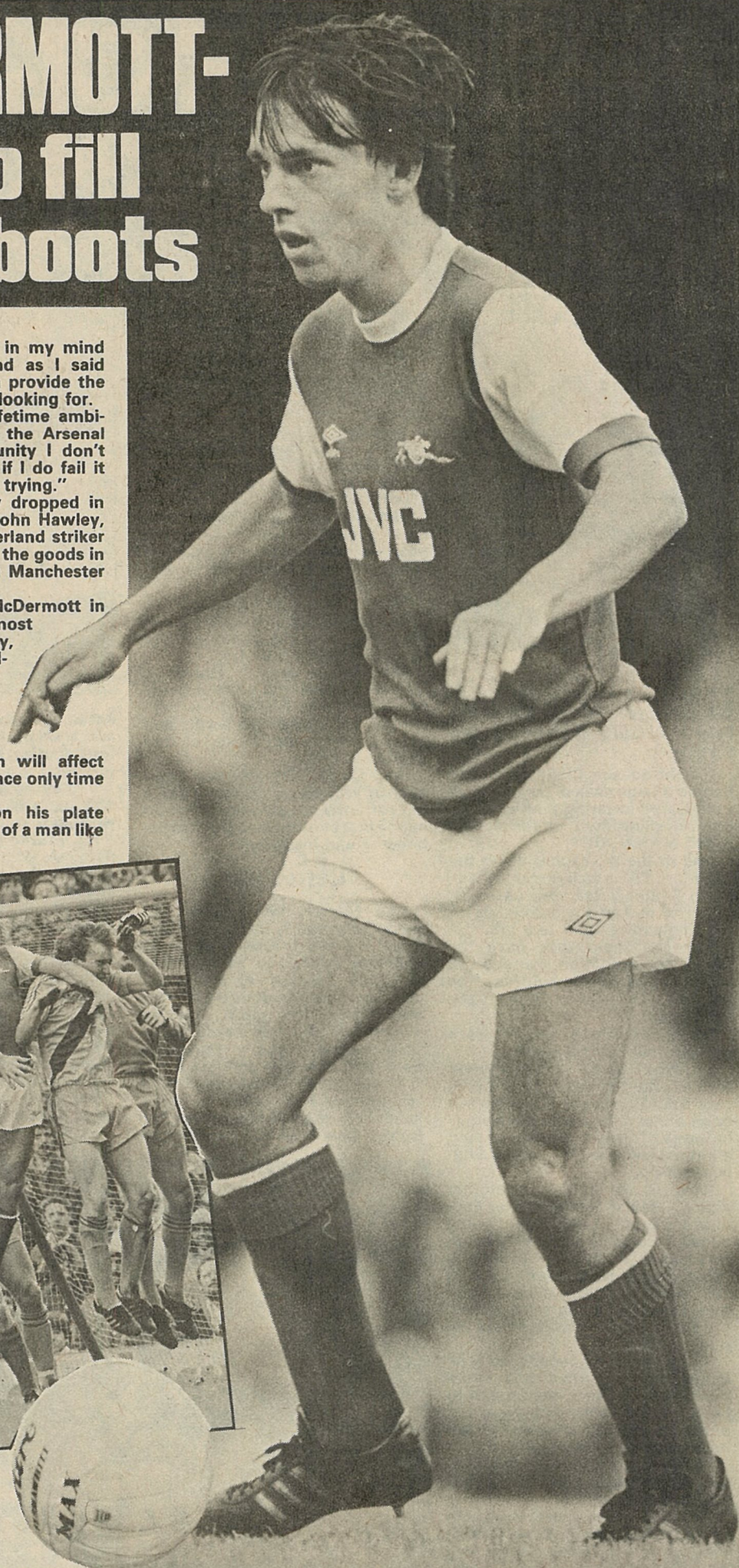
But having seen McDermott in action we have the utmost confidence in his ability, for he is an outstanding young striker.

But whether the increasing clamour for the Gunners to go out and buy a big name front man will affect McDermott's confidence only time will tell.

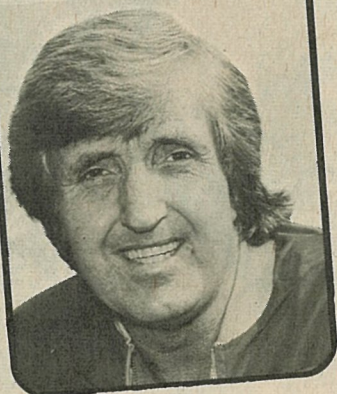
He has enough on his plate trying to fill the boots of a man like Stapleton.



Frank Stapleton (above) played a different role to McDermott while at Arsenal.



**MAN. CITY
MANAGER
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BRIAN Clough's reign as manager of Nottingham Forest should be terminated forthwith.

I want to see Cloughie sitting behind a large desk in London with gold-leafed lettering pinned to his door spelling two words "ENGLAND MANAGER".

And in the next room down the corridor, I'd install Peter Taylor, Brian's hugely talented assistant at Forest and an obvious choice for the England number two job.

Between them they have the talent, determination, courage and sheer bloody-mindedness to rescue England from the scrapheap.

For that's where we are. Rock bottom, out for the count.

I thought that Ron Greenwood was exactly the right man to take over from Don Revie. I think he has done a marvellous job, not always in terms of results, but in bringing a refreshing honesty to the England set-up.

Now is the time for another change. Ron should quit after England's final qualifying game against Hungary at Wembley on November 18, or, in the event of a miracle appearance by England in the World Cup Finals next summer, resign after the tournament.

Knowing Ron, he will choose the right time to go.

The England manager's job is all about handling men and situations. Brian Clough has proved to be the best handler of players and a man for all occasions and I think he is perfect for the job.

He is also supremely gifted at picking the right players and getting the right blend.

Too many people have been concerned about what Brian Clough may say or what Brian Clough may do. Controversy follows him around — and I think it has concerned the Football Association that our image could be harmed.

'GIVE CLOUGH THE ENGLAND JOB'

They don't want aggravation. I can understand that, but at the end of the day England have not enjoyed the success we all demanded.

There is no doubt in my mind that Clough and Taylor would sort things out and get us to the 1986 World Cup Finals.

The sad conclusion I have drawn from unhappy events in recent years is that English football is running out of control on a self-destructive course.

The most urgent need is for a full-scale inquiry into all the problems besetting the game we love so dearly in this country.

But if we are to launch a thorough investigation, the panel must consist of 12 Just Men, who can cut through all the waffle and get to the root cause of the trouble.

Stan Cullis, distinguished manager of Wolves for so many years but currently out of football, would be my first choice on account of his honesty and integrity.

Refreshing

Joe Mercer, who played the game so superbly for Arsenal, and managed Manchester City, is an absolute must, and so is Jimmy Hill, the "Match of the Day" compere who has done a tremendous job for the game. Jimmy's awareness of what needs to be done would make a refreshing contribution to the dialogue.

Player opinion would need to be recognised. Who better to represent them than Bobby Moore and Bobby Charlton? Charlton might

Brian Clough and Peter Taylor are ideal for the England management positions.



not have been able to get on in the managerial and coaching side of the game but I do think he has a lot to offer.

If they could get together and draw-up a blueprint for the future we might stand a chance.

It's vital to get the England side right. A winning England team, such as the one Alf Ramsey produced, motivated the League clubs. Unfortunately we have to start from scratch.

The Continental and South American countries analyse their problems more thoroughly than we do. We don't like change in this country, so when something is wrong we are slow to put it right. We have too many people fiddling about with the game — rarely achieving anything.

We have too many clubs. We must have quality not quantity.

Foreign countries look after their

schoolboys and youth players better than we do. Our League clubs must get more involved with school football. Youngsters are not receiving the soccer education they need to prepare them for the professional game.

When I was coaching schoolboys at West Ham I ran across boys who got no football because they were considered too small to get in school teams. The big lads made the school and district teams. A tragedy.

At League level, I could put players through skill tests at clubs all over the country, and a lot of them would look mugs. Glenn Hoddle and Trevor Brooking are technically superb, but something of a rarity.

Nicky Reid, one of my City players, could have an England future if he can sharpen his awareness and improve his technique. There are enough youngsters available if they are taught properly.

What is inescapable is that standards have deteriorated, even if the organisation has improved. There was a time when you could reel off star names by the dozen. John Charles, Ronnie Burgess, Tommy Finney, Len Shackleton. Not now.

It's time for action — and appointing Brian Clough England manager would be the best start the F.A. could make.

See you again soon . . .

Nicky Reid (dark strip) could become a member of the international team.



See! Nicky Reid
John Bond

MIDDLESBROUGH v FOREST . . . Mark Proctor returns to Ayresome Park

NOTTINGHAM Forest star Mark Proctor returns to Ayresome Park on Saturday hoping there is no lingering ill-feeling about his move to the Midlands.

The England Under-21 midfielder left Middlesbrough when his contract expired during the summer, but he didn't feel as though he was walking out on them.

He explained: "I just hope that people in the North-East realise that the only reason I left Middlesbrough was to further my career. I am ambitious like anyone else and joining a club like Forest had to be good for me.

"I always had a good relationship with the Middlesbrough fans. I was one of the local lads who made good and I never had any complaints about the way I was treated.

"I would like to think that supporters remember the good times I had with them and understand that leaving to join Forest was the right move for me at that stage of my career.

"I really can't thank Middlesbrough enough

for putting me on the way. They gave me a chance when I was only 17 and had the faith to let me stay in the first team and establish myself as a teenager.

"There can't be many First Division clubs who would give that kind of opportunity to a youngster."

But why is it that Middlesbrough invariably find themselves in a situation where top stars like Proctor, David Armstrong, Craig Johnston and Graeme Souness and David Mills before them leave?

Said Proctor: "Obviously, people leave for different reasons, like they would at other clubs, but it does appear that Middlesbrough don't attract the big gates to support a really successful team.

"From time to time big names have beer

**'I didn't
walk out on
Boro'**

unloaded but looking at it from the club's point of view, they might be in a situation where they have to sell to balance the books."

That's a problem Proctor's current manager Brian Clough faced this season when he was forced to sell Trevor Francis to Manchester City to offset the money that was spent on Proctor and Justin Fashanu.

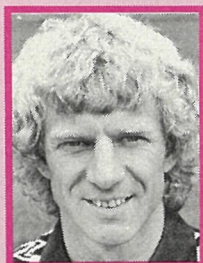
Major Power

And although Francis' departure was a major blow on Trentside, Proctor still feels that Forest will soon re-establish themselves as a major power in English football.

He added: "I've really settled in well at Forest. There is a great atmosphere at the club and everyone realises that the management are building a young team for a successful future.

"I'm sure it will come once we've got into a pattern and before the season is out I'm expecting us to figure when it comes to actually winning something. If we get the run of the ball we'll be there somewhere.

"For now, though, I'll settle for three points at Ayresome. I don't like to see Boro struggling, but my loyalties are now with Forest."



Former Middlesbrough star David Mills, who is now playing for West Bromwich Albion.

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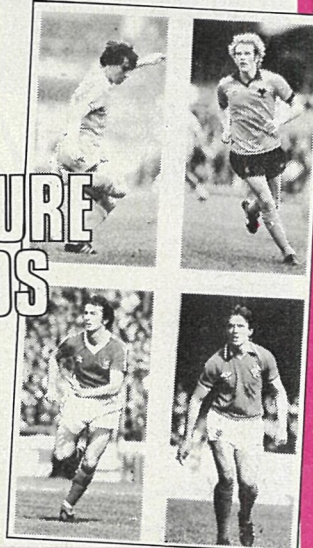
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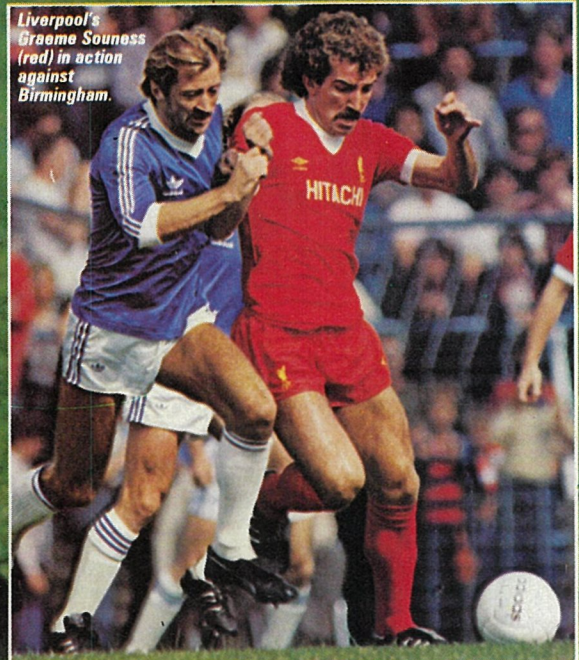
Super Focus

DAVID ARMSTRONG SOUTHAMPTON

FULL NAME: David Armstrong.
BIRTHPLACE: Durham City.
BIRTHDATE: December 26, 1954.
HEIGHT: 5ft 7½ins.
WEIGHT: 11st 4lbs.
MARRIED: To Julie Anne.
CHILDREN: Claire and Louise.
CAR: Talbot Solara.

PREVIOUS CLUB:
Middlesbrough.
JOB OR TRADE BEFORE
TURNING PRO: None.
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER:
Daily Express.
FAVOURITE PLAYER:
Graeme Souness.

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:
Middlesbrough v Luton 1973-74.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:
Losing in the F.A. Cup
Quarter-Finals.
BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN:
Benfica.
FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK:
Indian, Dry Martini and tonic.
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES:
DISLIKES: Winning... Smoking,
losing.
FAVOURITE SINGER: Frank
Sinatra.
FAVOURITE ACTOR: Charles
Bronson.



Liverpool's
Graeme Souness
(red) in action
against
Birmingham.

A PLAYER FOR THE
FUTURE: Stephen Bell
(Middlesbrough).
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAMS: New
Durham FC, Durham Boilers.
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD:
Pele.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Golf,
cricket.
OTHER SPORTS PERSONS YOU
MOST ADMIRE: Sebastian Coe
and Steve Ovett.
YOUR BEST EVER ALL-TIME XI: The
Brazilian team which won the 1970
World Cup.

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT:
Minorca.
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Jim'll Fix
It.
BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY: 'For
Your Eyes Only'.
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY
OFF: Golf.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON
CAREER: George Wardle, youth
team boss when I was an
apprentice.
SUPERSTITIONS: Don't have any.
PRE-MATCH MEAL: Cheese
omelette.
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: One
full England cap, 'B' caps and
Under-23 caps.
PERSONAL AMBITION: To play in
an F.A. Cup Final.
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB
WOULD YOU DO? Don't know.
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: Don't
know.
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD
WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO
MEET? Pele, Muhammad Ali.



Brazil's 1970
World Cup
team.

David Armstrong

SHOOT!